Vol. : 49 Issue : 11

Tamilarasu

May 2018
Rs. 20/-

Publication of Information & Public Relations Department

1st May: May Day

‘Workers, who uplift the world should get their due’

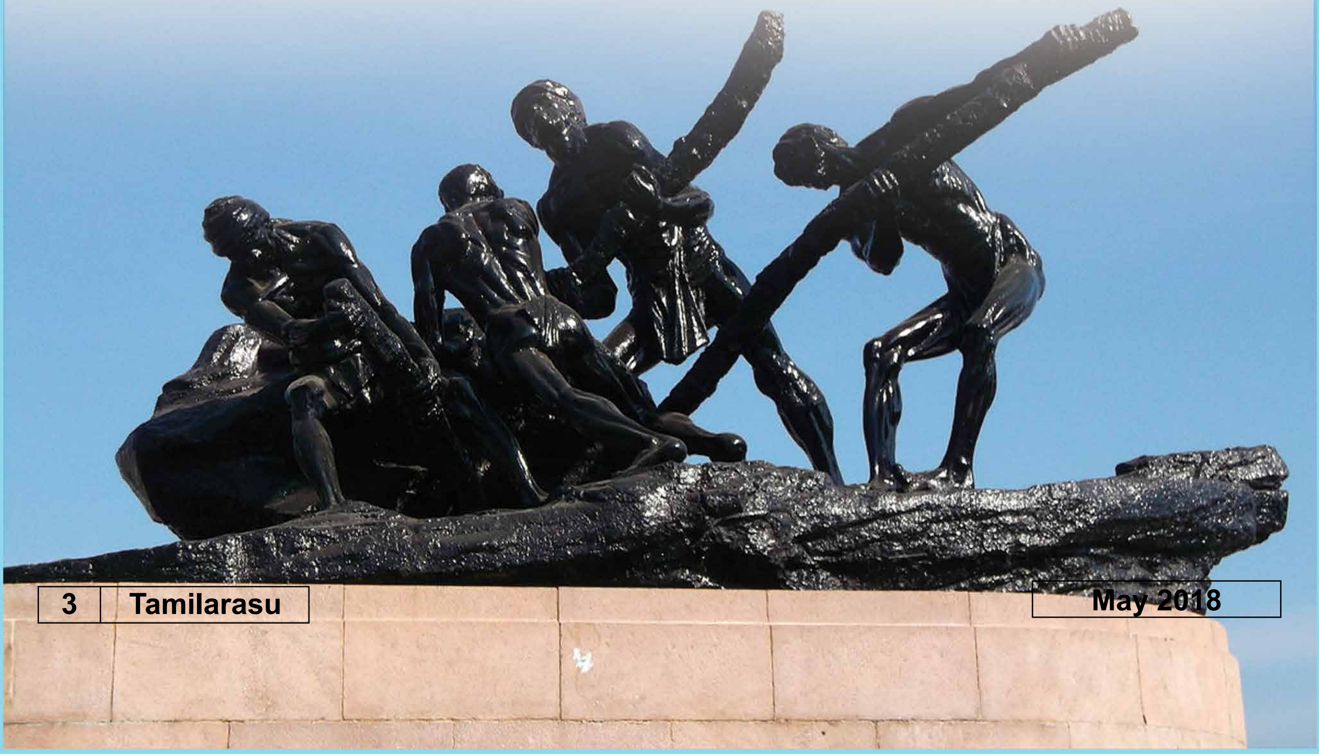
May Day Greetings of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 30.04.2018 (*English Translation*).

“I extend my heartfelt greetings to workers throughout the world on May Day, which proclaims the importance of the working class to the world”.

May Day, which is celebrated all over the world, is the most significant day for workers, who put in their hard work for the welfare of the world and spell the greatness of labour to the world.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said, “Hard work always gives results. You can get true contentment only through hard work. If you work with confidence, you will definitely succeed in life”. Everyone should keep in mind the golden words of Amma and work hard. Such persons will definitely attain greatness in life.

Workers, who work hard for the development and economic upliftment of the Country, should get all benefits and compensation for their work, and live happily. I once again wish beloved workers my heartfelt greetings on this May Day and extend my best wishes.



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Publication of Information &
Public Relations Department
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2049

May 2018

Vol: 49 Rs.20/- Issue: 11

> "Whether it is the agriculture sector or any other sector, all sectors are advancing today on the path of growth. Hon'ble Amma's government is your Government, the Government of the poor and humble people, the Government that has understood the needs of the poor people".
>
> **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
> - Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Editor and Publisher

Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S.,
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
Joint Secretary to Government

Administrative Editor

C. Selvaraj
Deputy Director (Publications)

Joint Editor

A. Raja
Assistant Director

Associate Editors/Public Relations Officers

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R. Samundeeswari

Junior Proof Reader

D. Priya

Designed by

P.A. Louis
G. Murali Krishnan
R.Uma Maheswari

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Designed & Printed at :
Tamilarasu Press
Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Kanagam, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113.
Tel : 044-2254 2221 / 2254 2224
E-mail : tamilarasujournal@gmail.com
Website : www.tndipr.gov.in

First Wrapper

The Hon'ble President of India, **Thiru. Ram Nath Kovind**, who visited Tamil Nadu to take part in functions in the State, was welcomed at the Chennai Airport by Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** and honoured with a shawl and a bouquet. Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Governor, **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** is seen with him in the picture (04.05.2018)

Stone laid for ambitious memorial for Amma

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the memorial of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa at a cost of Rs.50.80 crore at the memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R., at Chennai on 07.05.2018.

The mortal remains of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma were laid to rest on 06.12.2016 at the vacant site on the eastern side of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.'s Samadhi in his memorial. A Government order was issued on 06.12.2016, changing the name as Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Selvi J Jayalalithaa Memorial.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced in the Assembly on 28.06.2017 that a massive memorial, to the appreciation of all, would be erected to the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at the place of her burial by inviting designs globally from architects and establishments and selecting the best by a committee of experts.

The PWD was authorized to get the sketches of the designs from private architects/ establishments. An expert committee, headed by the Chief Engineer (Buildings) of the PWD was formed for the selection of these design sketches.

Hon'ble Chief Minister convened a meeting of the members of the expert committee

for selecting the design for the memorial. A Government order was issued on 10.01.2018 for erecting a memorial for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at a cost of Rs.50.80 crore as per the selected design at the Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Selvi J Jayalalithaa memorial.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's memorial and other connected structures are to come up in 50,422 sq.ft of land. A model of the phoenix bird, a museum, knowledge park, granite pathway, ponds and compound wall will adorn the memorial.

7,32,931 pensioners to be issued ID cards

Pensioners and their associations represented to Government for the issue of identity cards to pensioners as is given to serving Government servants. After carefully examining the request, the Hon'ble Minister for Personnel and Administrative Reforms announced, As per the orders of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in the Assembly during the Demands for Grants for the Finance Department for 2016-2017 that ID cards would be given to pensioners and family pensioners. They would be issued under Tamil Nadu Pensioners' Rules 1978. This was followed up with a G.O. no. 87 on 10.04.2017 for the issue of the cards.

Government has taken necessary steps to issue these ID cards through the 659 e-service/common service centres of the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation, with the help of the National Information Centre. About 7,32,931 pensioners will benefit.

To implement the scheme of audit information management agency in the Departments of Co-operative audit and local body finance audit, the Government has sanctioned Rs.2 crore. ELCOT has purchased 484 laptops at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore for equal distribution between these two Departments.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. O.Panneerselvam inaugurated these two schemes on 16.04.2018 at the integrated office complex of the Finance Department at Nandanam by making a token distribution of ID cards to 16 pensioners and laptops to 70 audit personnel.

Chief Minister's appeal at Defence Expo to Tamil Nadu MSMEs

'Take up large projects from Defence forces, DRDO, ISRO, Defence PSUs'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** in the Defexpo 2018 April 11th to 14th, at Chennai on 12.04.2018.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modiji,

Hon'ble Governor,

Hon'ble Union Defence Minister,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Defence,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,

My Cabinet colleagues,

Hon'ble MPs, MLAs,

Secretary, Defence Production Dr. Ajay Kumar!

Chief Secretary Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan!

Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department Thiru. K. Gnanadesikan!

Chiefs and Vice Chiefs of Defence Forces, Other Officers,

Dignitaries from various countries

Industrialists and Delegates,

Defence veterans,

Friends from Press and Media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Defence Minister for having organised this grand Global event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

“உறுப்புஅமைந்து, ஊறுஅஞ்சா வெல்படை வேந்தன்,

வெறுக்கையுள் எல்லாம் தலை”

The greatest wealth for a country is its wholesome defence capability - said our legendary saint Thiruvalluvar.

Tamil Nadu is known for its military capabilities since ancient times, especially from

the periods of Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas to Pallavas. The kingdoms had large armies and their campaigns, took our language, culture and tradition across the Bay of Bengal and beyond.

Making arms and ammunition is not new to Tamil Nadu; Centuries ago, Tamil Nadu had produced innovative weapons and mastered metallurgy. Tamil Nadu is well poised to make defence combat systems, aero components, ship building, electronic warfare, combat clothing, etc.,

The "Vision Tamil Nadu 2023" document unveiled by our late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, lays special emphasis on Aerospace & Defence Sector.

As we all know, the strong industrial environment and availability of highly skilled human resources are our fundamental strengths which keep Tamil Nadu in a leadership position in automobile and engineering manufacturing. The next logical step for our manufacturing sector is towards Defence and Aerospace manufacturing.

There are large number of aerospace and defence related companies in Tamil Nadu, catering not only to our Defence PSUs, but also supplying their components to larger global companies.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir, Tamil Nadu would like to contribute 25% of India's defence needs in terms of products and services. We shall support our defence forces by providing them capabilities to effectively protect our border.

To meet this objective, the State Government has enacted a Business Facilitation Act for ensuring timely clearances and ease of doing business in the State. Government of Tamil Nadu is in the process of coming out with an exclusive Aerospace & Defence Policy with an objective of achieving 25% share of the sector in India and creating high-end employment opportunities for around 1 lakh persons in Tamil Nadu. Development of Chennai Aerospace & Defence Park in Sriperumbudur is one such initiative to start with. This Park is being set up in 250 acres in the 1st phase which is expandable to 500 acres in the next phase.

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the announcement of Defence Corridor project, in the last Union Budget. In fact, it has come handy for our efforts in enhancing the prevailing defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Government of Tamil Nadu will provide its wholehearted support to the Defence Corridor project and will provide proper Road connectivity, full power supply and other infrastructure requirements.

The new Defence Procurement Policy (DPP) announced by Government of India has created excellent business opportunities to Indian companies. This policy, combined with the manufacturing capabilities of the domestic companies, have opened up new vistas in the Aerospace & Defence manufacturing sectors in India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. This is in tune with the 'Make in India' policy launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Tamil Nadu has the largest number of Medium and Small Scale Industries in the country. They should come forward to take up large projects and programmes from Defence forces, DRDO, ISRO and other Central Defence

PSUs. The State Government will readily support such moves by the MSME.

Aircraft Maintenance Repair and Overhauling (MRO) activities are equally important area in Aerospace & Defence Sector which offer huge employment and economic opportunities. Hence, we are focussing on establishing an MRO complex in Chennai, as Chennai has all capabilities to emerge as the Global MRO hub. The State welcomes reputed MRO operators to set up their operations in Tamil Nadu.

I take this opportunity to welcome all to invest in Tamil Nadu and I assure you all support and assistance on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to consider establishing a manufacturing facility by HAL for Light Combat Aircrafts and Helicopters in Salem and also consider establishing a defence MRO in Coimbatore Airbase.

Tamils are known for courage and patriotism. We shall always fulfill our responsibilities to our motherland and we shall take the lead in manufacturing the best aircrafts, ships and armaments for our soldiers.

Long live India, Long live Tamil Nadu, long live our brave sons and daughters who are at the forefront safeguarding our country!

Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in Picture

In connection with the 167th Birth Anniversary of Velludai Vendhar Sir Pitty Thiyagarayar on 27.04.2018, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament and High Officials of the Government paid floral tribute, on behalf of the Government, to his portrait placed near his statue in the Chennai Corporation premises.

Chief Minister dedicates Drinking Water Scheme for residents of Kovilpatti

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Government function in Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi District on 11.05.2018 *(English Translation)*.

I bow to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am extremely happy to participate in this pleasant function and meet you all.

This function is being held with the blessings of the great leader Amma who is adored by people.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, who is presiding over this excellent function, Hon'ble Minister for Forest Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K.Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural development, Implementation of Special Programmes Thiru. S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management Thiru. R.B.Udhaya Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development Thiru. K.T.Rajenthrabhalaji, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Dr. M.Manikandan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries Board Thiru. G.Baskaran, Hon'ble Special Representative to the Government of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi Thiru. N. Thalavai Sundaram, District Collector of Thoothukudi Thiru. N. Venkatesan, who welcomed the gathering, Chief Engineer of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board Thiru. S.Murugadas, MPs and MLAs, former Ministers, former MPs & MLAs, former representatives of Local Bodies, Government Staff, Newspaper and Media friends, Respected Elders and Ladies – at the outset I extend my grateful respects to all of you.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma laid the foundation for this combined water supply

scheme. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, like a God allotted Rs.82.14 crore for this scheme while on a visit to Kovilpatti, with the intention of providing protected Tamiraparani water to the people of this town on a permanent basis. The scheme has been completed and has been declared open today. Respected brother Kadambur Raju invited me for the inauguration of this scheme. As I come here, I see the entire Thoothukudi District has turned up here. The inauguration of this combined water supply function appears like a conference. En route, people were thronging either side of the road and in this hall also there is a sea of humanity. This shows the extent of people's support to the AIADMK Government.

This Government acts as per the intentions of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and in accordance with the Tirukkural dictum, **"Iyatralum eettalum kaathalum kaattha vakutthalum vallathu arasu"** (He is a king who is able to acquire wealth, store it, guard it, and distribute it to his people). Today, the Government is inaugurating the scheme works on the Kovilpatti Municipality's second pipeline, is laying the foundation for new scheme works and is distributing welfare assistance to beneficiaries.

Thoothukudi District has earned a permanent place in Indian history and eternal fame through its son of the soil, National poet Bharathiar who sang about the country as "Paarukkullae nalla naadu engal Bharatha Naadu" (Our Bhaaratham is the best among Nations in the globe), about Tamil Nadu as "Senthamizh Naadenum pothinilae- Inba thaen vandhu paayuthu kaathinilae" (When the name Senthamizh country is uttered, there is a shower of honey in the ear), about Tamil language as "Yaamarintha mozhigalilae Thamizh mozhi poal inidhaavathu engum kaanoam" (Among the languages we know, there is none as sweet as Tamil) and about Thoothukudi as "Muthu kulippathoru then kadalilae" (We dive for pearls in the southern sea).

In such a glorious District, I feel proud to participate in this pleasant function being held in Kovilpatti municipal area. Kovilpatti has earned world fame for its groundnut cake (kadalai mittai) as Sivakasi has done for its match box, Dindigul for lock, Manapparai for draught cattle, Kancheepuram for silk,Madurai for jasmine flower, Thanjavur for paddy, Kangeyam for bull, Namakkal for egg, Kumbakonam for temple, Manachanallur for rice, Panruti for jack fruit and Tirunelveli for halwa. The reason for the fame of Kovilpatti groundnut cake is that no artificial chemical, as a preservative, is added in its production and it is manufactured with natural ingredients. People of Kovilpatti are also as sweet as the groundnut cake. In hospitality and speaking the truth, they are very good.

I have a special affection and respect for Kovilpatti. That is why I have directly participated in the inauguration of this new water supply development scheme, designed to find a permanent solution for the supply

of this basic necessity in sufficient quantity. Hon'ble Amma's Government is very particular to augment water resources, share the available water among all people and take precautionary measures to avert water scarcity guided by the Tirukkural saying "Neer indri amayadhu ulagu" (Without water, there is no life on earth).

The present allocation of 60 lakh litres of water to Kovilpatti municipality through the combined water supply scheme of 1976, is inadequate for people. Hence Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma allotted Rs.81.82 crore in 2012 itself and gave a shape to this water supply scheme. This scheme has been prepared with a visionary outlook, taking into account the population growth, the likely population in the year 2040 and the need to supply 135 litres of drinking water per head per day in the event of implementation of an underground drainage scheme in future.

Going by the present population of the municipality, this scheme will provide 100 lakh litres of drinking water to the municipality per day. Besides, I am happy to inform that works are on to set up 4 infiltration wells at a cost of Rs.2.58 crore and to provide pipelines for drinking water supply to 27,846 households at a cost of Rs.15.30 crore. Hence, this Government that works on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is serving people to meet their essential needs. I am happy to say that this Kovilpatti Municipality drinking water development scheme is an example in this manner.

Through this pleasant function, I wish to request the people to imbibe the awareness of preventing wastage of water from street taps without any loss of time. We should consider water as life itself and habituate ourselves to saving it as if it were more valuable than gold. Everyone should realize that the water resource is the mother of all resources. You should all take a pledge to protect water resources for the prosperity of the town.

I consider it as an honour and am happy to have distributed welfare assistance to the extent of Rs.15.99 crore to benefit 5,636 persons from Thoothukudi District. All the beneficiaries should consider Government's welfare assistance as a stepping stone for their development, work hard and get all the good things in life.

Likewise, I consider it an honour to have declared open through this function, 129 buildings, completed at a cost of Rs.128.13 crore for the Water and Drainage Board, Thoothukudi Municipal Corporation and the Departments of School Education, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Public Works and Agriculture. I have also laid the foundation for 144 schemes, estimated to cost Rs.47.80 crore .

Following the Hon'ble Amma's Vedic diktat – "I am by the people, for the people" - I am very happy to have commissioned these scheme works which are the outcome of Hon'ble Amma's dreams and aspirations. Hon'ble Amma had said: "I have never failed to fulfill the expectations of the poor and marginalized people". This Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, is a Government committed to the people. I firmly declare that it will never fail from serving people even for a day. A story will explain it better.

Once upon a time, a king gave a good rule to his people and helped the poor through many good deeds. As a result, he went to heaven and was living there for many years. One day, Chithraguptan asked the king to prepare to go back to the world as that was his last day of his sojourn in heaven. "Can I know the reason why I am being sent back'', asked the king. "There is no one in the world now who has benefited

from your good deeds; hence you should go back", said Chithraguptan. The king requested: "Please tell me if there is any way for me to continue to remain in heaven". After a pause, Chithraguptan said: "If you find even one living creature that is being benefited out of your good deeds, you can continue to remain in heaven".

When the king came and saw the world, it was a totally changed place. He could not identify any one. After a great deal of search, he found the oldest man of the town and asked him: "Do you know king Chandrasenan?". "I don't know. But there is an owl, older than me, sleeping in the nearby tree. Go and ask it", he said.

The king waited till the night, found the owl and repeated his question to it. The angry old owl gave a negative reply and directed him to an older crane. "I don't remember exactly; but there is a tortoise in the nearby lake which is older than me; ask it", the crane told the king when he posed the same question.

The king went to the lake, met the tortoise and queried it about Chandrasenan. The tortoise' face suddenly lit up. "I know him very well. This lake owes its existence to that king. The creatures here are happy. The groves around this lake are fertile and birds live there. Agriculture too goes on well due to this lake" said the tortoise.

"I am that king but I don't remember to have dug this lake", he said. The tortoise asserted: "This lake was dug only during your reign. From that time, the lake has never dried up. You are responsible for the fertility of this area. I am also living happily here for many years. Many more living beings are going to inhabit this place" said the tortoise. The king was happy and returned to heaven.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is like that king. Many good things she did for the poor with a visionary look will benefit many generations. Amma's Government is implementing only such schemes. This Government is people's Government. This Government is Hon'ble Amma's Government. It will act speedily and with discretion. It is executing the tasks left behind by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At present, Amma's Government is implementing a wonderful scheme, the kudimaramathu scheme. We designed this wonderful kudimaramathu scheme to store rain water, during the monsoon, in lakes and tanks across the State. In the first phase, as a pilot project we allotted Rs.100 crore and deepened 1,519 lakes. The rain water in the last monsoon seasons filled up the lakes and farmers have benefited out of it. There is water to meet the drinking water needs also. Ground water level has increased. Hence it is a wonderful scheme.

As there is a demand for the extension of this scheme from the representatives of farmers' associations, general public, MLAs, MPs and Ministers, I wish to give the information that 1,511 more lakes are to be taken up under this scheme and an allotment of Rs.331 crore has been made for that. If the living standards of

the poor, oppressed and depressed farmers and farm labour in rural areas are to improve and they are to prosper, water is very important.

To save that water, I wish to point out, Amma's Government has designed a scheme and has implemented it. Also, there were demands for construction of check dams in odais and rivers. Conceding to those demands, a three-year plan has been worked out and Rs.1,000 crore has been allotted and Amma's Government has taken steps to lay yearly targets for funds allotment and execution of works. In the first stage, Rs.350 crore has been allotted for construction of check dam. During the monsoon periods, rain water wastefully drains into the sea through odais and rivers. Check dams will prevent such wastage and the saved water will improve the ground water table and make available that water for irrigation. Amma's Government is implementing this scheme also. Not a drop of water should be wasted. The Government is planning the various ways of saving that water and is implementing them. It is the prime duty of Amma's Government to provide the required quantum of water to the farmers who, with a sense of dedication, toil round-the-clock, giving their life's energy to cultivating the soil.

The Government itself procures urad so that farmers growing that pulse can get fair price for their produce. It offers a higher price of Rs. 54/- against the market price of Rs.45/-. A target of 3,000 tonnes has been fixed for procurement. So far 250 tonnes of urad have been procured from farmers. So I wish to point out that Amma's Government is taking up the loss on itself whenever farmers are affected and is protecting them.

At some places, farmers have to lay deep bore wells to a depth of 1,000 ft. to get water. Hence Amma's Government is promoting drip irrigation so that water will not be wasted but will be used thriftily. Through the 75 per cent subsidy provided by the Government, farmers can purchase drip irrigation implements and take up agriculture. Amma's Government is giving subsidy for the purchase of agricultural tools, for the purchase of seeds and fertilizer. Tamil Nadu has been bagging, nearly for 3 to 4 years now, the first prize for the highest production of foodgrains at the National level. For that, we have received the Krishikarman award also. We are able to record a higher production as farmers practice agriculture in a better way. I wish to point out at this juncture that farmers are happy in Tamil Nadu. Likewise, Tamil Nadu is the only State that supplies rice at no cost.

To achieve a higher enrollment in Higher Education, Amma's Government has opened 11 new Arts and Science Colleges. We have thereby created an environment for students from the families of the poor, downtrodden and oppressed classes in rural areas to take up higher education. When Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the reins of administration in 2011, the percentage of students enrolling for higher education was 21. As Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave importance to education and brought about a revolution in the field of education through implementation of a slew of welfare schemes like free supply of footwear, note books, school bag, cycle and laptops , the percentage of students going for higher education has increased to 46.34 in Tamil Nadu, the highest in the whole country. Amma's Government has given this honour to Tamil Nadu. A State that excels in education will have all prosperity. Education is the substratum for culture, character and love. Amma's Government is giving such an education to our students. As education is very important for a country to prosper, more funds are allotted

to the Department of Education than to Other Departments.

Hon'ble Amma had designed another combined water supply scheme to cater to 246 residential areas in the constituencies of Vilathikulam, Ottapidaram and Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi District to be executed at a cost of Rs.106 crore . It will be completed in another six months. So, to provide protected Tamiraparani water to the people in Thoothukudi District, Amma laid the foundation for the combined water supply scheme and Amma's Government has declared it open. As drinking water supply is very important, the combined water supply scheme designed by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was completed very speedily and water supplied, first in Kovilpatti. As I said, in another six months, it will be supplied in the constituencies of Vilathikulam, Ottapidaram and Kovilpatti.

I am happy to say on this occasion that the scheme to supply protected Tamiraparani water to three constituencies in Virudhunagar District will be completed in a short time and inaugurated.

Similarly, Amma's Government has facilitated supply of water once in two days to people in Thoothukudi Municipality by completing the Rs.292 crore scheme announced in the centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Through the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme, announced by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during the election, two wheelers are given at subsidized rates to working women in the unorganized sector. The maximum subsidy given is Rs.25,000/-, for distribution of one lakh vehicles in a year. Till now 3,34,000 persons have registered themselves in this scheme and in the next two years, Amma's Government will implement this scheme by distributing the vehicles to these registered persons.

The health sector too is functioning very well in Tamil Nadu. After assuming office as Chief Minister in 2011, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had opened 229 primary health centres for the benefit of the rural populace. No other State in the Country has so many primary health centres. The upgraded primary health centres have been converted into 30-bed hospitals. Amma's Government has opened 120 such hospitals. It is Amma's Government that has created conditions for the poor in rural areas to take treatment in their own places through the primary health centres.

Through their hard efforts, a team of Government doctors has transplanted in the Stanley Hospital, both hands to an armless person from Athur area in Dindigul District. Our Medical Department has performed this feat. In the medical history of India, fixing of both the hands in a Government Hospital has been done only in Tamil Nadu. On this occasion, I convey my greetings and gratitude to the doctors in that team as also to the other members in the team.

Not only this. A heart transplant surgery has been performed in the Government Hospital at Madurai. At present, Government Hospitals are rendering all good medical services to people. Continuously for three years, we are in the lead position in organ transplant surgery in the whole of India.

In medical treatment also we are in the premier position. The child mortality rate during delivery has come down. During her rule, Idaya Deivam Puratchi thalaivi Amma took many steps to ensure delivery of healthy babies. In the 2014 election manifesto, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced that the maternity assistance of Rs.12,000/-

given to pregnant women would be increased to Rs.18,000/-. It has been increased to Rs.18,000/- now. A part of this amount – Rs. 4,000/- is set apart for the implementation of an excellent scheme – Mother-Child Care Kit - and nutritious articles like dates and oranges are given to pregnant women twice during the period of pregnancy – in the third and fifth months. Through this, we have created an environment for the birth of healthy babies with greater weight. Whatever Puratchi Thalaivi Amma thought, Amma's Government is implementing them today.

Jallikattu sport is taking place in an excellent way all over the State . Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development, myself and Ministers inaugurated that sport. All the schemes are implemented only by Amma's Government.

Today, we have been streamlining many roads. The TNRC has taken up 17 km in Ettayapuram-Kovilpatti stretch and roads have been streamlined. Likewise 127 km road works – from Thoothukudi, Tiruchendur up to Kanyakumari (TTK) – have been taken up and they are about to be completed. Not only these but many road works have been taken up and many quality roads have been laid which no other State can boast of.

Bridges are constructed wherever they are needed. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule was a golden rule. Whatever Puratchi Thalaivi dreamt of, they are all being implemented by Amma's Government. This is your Government, people's Government, a Government that understands the needs of the people and functions to fulfill them.

New parties have sprung up today. We are not against the starting of new parties. But it is not clear what they were doing all these days. Today, they say all rivers should be linked. They raise the demand after much water has flowed down the bridge. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had fought a battle in the courts and when it is about to come to an end, many leaders suddenly sprout up on the scene and repeat it. So, the movement and the Government that does good to the people is AIADMK and none other.

Many opposition parties, are at present levelling charges against this Government. As for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Ammma's Government, it is functioning honestly. We are implementing with precision the works left behind by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We have recorded growth in all Departments. At the National level, whether it is transport sector, electricity, agriculture, health or education we are in the premier place and get prizes on that score. Such is the excellent record of Amma's Government.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma toiled for this Country. As Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Kadambur Raju who spoke before me Stated, she promised that AIADMK would be in power for hundred years even after her and give many good schemes to the people.

I wish to inform that this Government will continue to function on the basis of that promise, plan schemes for the upliftment of the poor, downtrodden, oppressed and marginalized people in rural areas and implement them in such a way that the benefits flow directly to your house.

My heart-felt thanks to the Minister of this District , my dear brother Thiru. Kadambur Raju for organizing this function in an excellent and inspiring manner and the executives, District collector, officers of the Water Supply and Drainage Board who worked with him as also to all the good hearts who have graced this function with their presence.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

‘Tamil Nadu, a haven of peace as Police function freely, impartially’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the passing out parade of the Tamil Nadu Police and the presentation function of President of India, Union Home Minister and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Awards, held at Rajarathinam stadium, Chennai on 04.04.2018 *(English Translation)*.

I pay my obeisance to Goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

With sparkling eyes, determined hearts and strong minds, you have assembled here and I am very happy and proud to meet you all.

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon’ble Ministers, Respected Members of Parliament, Respected Members of the Legislature, former Ministers, former MPs, MLAs, Respected Chief Secretary to Government, Respected Additional Chief Secretary to Home Department, Respected Director General of Police, Chennai Metro Commissioner of Police, Police Personnel – serving and retired, Media friends, brothers and sisters in the families of the constabulary who are participating in the function – my greetings to all of you in the first place.

As quoted by Tiruvalluvar in Tirukkural verse 761 (An army which is complete and conquers fearlessly is the foremost amongst a king’s possessions.) says that a King’s best wealth is an army that dares all hurdles. True to that verse, Tamil Nadu’s strength is its Police Department. **Not only Tamil Nadu remains as a Garden of Peace due to their dedicated service, but it also has got the honour**

of being the foremost place of safety for women to live in the whole of India. The sense of duty exhibited by the constabulary has made Tamil Nadu, a place for women to live freely, safely and peacefully.

If women's Police Stations are strong, the credit goes to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Our Police Department effortlessly handles and defuses issues that grow out of proportion. People should realize that their peaceful sleep at night is made possible by the vigilance of the constabulary all through the night.

I am very happy to take the salute at the passing out parade got up in connection with the completion of training to 29 Deputy Superintendents of Police and in presenting the President of India, Union Home Minister and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister medals to 203 persons from the Departments of Police, fire and rescue services, prison, civil supplies, home guards and anti-corruption and vigilance for their various types of exemplary services. My greetings and appreciation to all the awardees.

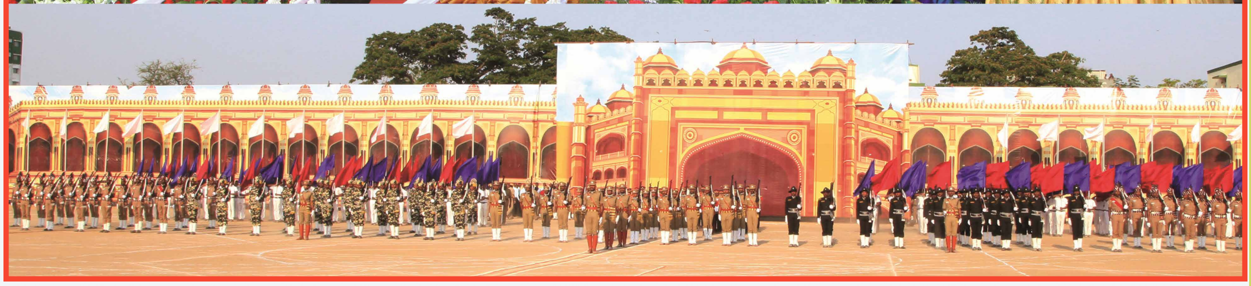
Rule of Law and Equality before Law are the foundations of a democratic Country. Sensing that law and order is an important factor for the wholesome growth of a State and for the benefits of growth to reach the people, Hon'ble Amma's Government gave priority to the maintenance of law and order and took steps to modernize the Police force and improve its efficiency. The Government meets the Department's needs for the maintenance of peace, communal harmony, implementation of the rule of law, protection of human rights and for ensuring the safety of the people; and it sees to it that there is no interference in the performance of their duty freely and impartially.

For the last 7 years, the Tamil Nadu Police is maintaining peace in the State through appropriate preventive actions, by forestalling events through effective work, by handling people's problems with humanism and impartiality and by averting communal disputes. Puratchi Thalaivar sang that he would not spare any one who committed a mistake, that too knowingly, even if he were God. Our Police is strict in ensuring that culprits don't escape. They bestow great attention on prevention of crime and in criminal cases, arrest the accused, haul them up before the Law and get them punishment.

When terrorist movements across the border and left extremist organizations try to hinder the Country's unity and development now and then, the Police Department is vigilant, takes necessary precautionary measures and sees to it that they do not indulge in any unlawful activities in the State. Our State has a long coastline and the Police are monitoring that no extremists infiltrate into the State through the sea, by strengthening coastal security, setting up new coastal Police Stations, outposts and check posts and by equipping the coastal Police force with modern vehicles and other accessories.

Economic development has brought about an increase in the vehicle population, leading to traffic congestion and road accidents. To reduce traffic accidents and solve all traffic-related problems, the Police has done scientific research and is taking the necessary steps.

The Police face many challenges. Understanding their difficulties,



the Government, functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is keen to fulfill their needs and provide them modern facilities, housing, vehicle and other facilities so that they can discharge their duties more efficiently.

To improve the Police Department, the budgetary allocation for the Department which was Rs.2,961.06 crore in 2010-2011 was gradually increased and in 2017-2018, it was Rs.7,877.58 crore. This will reveal the importance that this Government gives to the Police Department. Likewise, under the modernization Scheme, Rs.722.19 crore was allotted between 2011 and 2017 and Police Personnel's skill was improved through provisions of modern weapons, accessories, vehicles and self-defence armoury.

Steps are taken to fill up vacancies in the Department then and there and promotions are also given. In the last 7 years, 24,023 Constables, 1,034 Sub-Inspectors and 99 Deputy Superintendents of Police have been recruited. Along with this, 9,140 persons were recruited for the Tamil Nadu Special Police Youth Brigade and of them, 8,569 persons were selected as Police Constables. Also, steps are being taken to fill up the 1,480 vacant assistant Inspector posts and 5,538 Constables.

From 2011 to 2017, promotions were given to 58,593 persons in the Department – from the level of Constable upto the Director General level.

For greater efficiency of the Department and better service to people, modern facilities like crime and criminal tracking network and systems (CCTNS), un-manned aero vehicles for monitoring, wide area network, e-mail server, software development section and telephone connections to the Police Headquarters through optical fibre cable, have been provided.

On instructions from Government to install CCTV cameras in all Police Stations and public places for crime prevention and identification of criminals and to bring about transparency in the activities in Police Stations, 4,482 such

cameras have so far been installed in 747 Police Stations and 1,23,313 cameras in Government and private places.

Hon'ble Amma introduced a Closed User Group (CUG) system among Police Personnel to help Constables to contact their family members and office colleagues at any time. This helped the Constables to relieve their stress.

The Government has facilitated Police Personnel – from Constables to Inspectors – to take whole body scan at Government hospitals free of cost. It has also set up out-patient wards additionally at the 26 Headquarters of armed Police and 10 Headquarters of special Police force besides those in the exclusive 12 Police hospitals, for the benefit of Constables and their families.

For the convenience of Constables, 16,307 residential quarters and 33 dormitories have been constructed in the last 7 years. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced the " Own Your House" Scheme for Constables to realize their dream owning a house of their own. In the first phase under this Scheme, 2,673 houses were constructed at a cost of Rs.459.25 crore at Melakottaiyur, Kancheepuram District and handed over to the beneficiaries. Steps are being taken to construct houses under this Scheme at Keezh Kottaiyur and in other Districts for Personnel in uniform.

Likewise 48 super markets have been opened for the benefit of men in uniform, serving and retired, and their families to get articles at reduced price. The various allowances given to Police Personnel have been considerably enhanced. Till date from 2011, Rs.118.07 crore have been given to 1,404 families of Constables from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, Rs. 72.35 lakh to 85 Police Personnel from the

Gratuity Scheme, Rs.98.08 lakh to 59 persons from the Tamil Nadu Police Constable Insurance Scheme, Rs.2.12 crore to 287 persons from the Tamil Nadu Police Constable Medical Welfare Fund Scheme, Rs. 4.66 crore to children of 2,415 Constables from the Tamil Nadu Government Special Assistance Scheme and Rs.1.58 crore to 5,007 students from the Educational Prize Scheme. Under the Scheme of appointment on compassionate grounds, 671 persons have been given appointment orders in Police and other Departments from 2011.

As a result of Hon'ble Amma's Government's bountifulness with regard to the Police Department, the R.S.Puram Police station at Coimbatore and the Anna Nagar Police Station, Chennai have captured the first and fifth place respectively in the recently held National competition for the selection of the best Police Stations in the Country.

Also, in its report the National Crime Records Bureau has named Chennai 'The Safest Metro for women'. Among cities, Coimbatore has won this place. At the 61st All India Police Duty Meet, held at Chennai in February last, Tamil Nadu Police Department won 18 gold, 10 silver and 5 bronze medals, 7 trophies and the over-all Championship title. From this, it is evident that Tamil Nadu Police Department, as usual, continues to be the first in all respects in the Country. On this occasion, I wish to inform that this Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will provide all necessary facilities to the Police Department to function more effectively.

This Government which continues to pay attention to the removal of Police Personnel's grievances, passed orders recently to enhance the cash content of Anna Medal given to ranks from Constable to Head Constable for special Police work from Rs.4,000/- to Rs.5,000/- to Assistant Inspectors to Inspectors from Rs.6,000/- to Rs.10,000/-, to superintendent of Police from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/-, the monthly medal allowance for medal awarded to Constables from Rs.200/- to Rs.300/- and that for the gallantry medal from Rs.300/- to Rs.900/- Likewise, it has been announced that the number of Chief Minister Police Medals given to Constables who have completed 10 years of service, will be increased from 1,500 to 3,000 from 2018-2019.

Steps are taken to give training to Tamil Nadu Police Officers and Constables, jointly with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science, Bangalore, to help them cope with the different challenges they face in their daily work on account of globalization, technological revolution and the growth of social media.

Each one in the Police Department should be prepared to face severe challenges in their day-to-day work on account of the changes taking place at the global, social, economic and technological levels. Annal Gandhi Adigal said: "The best way to find yourself is, to lose yourself in the service of others". In accordance with this saying, **I request you all, to selflessly engage yourselves totally in the service of people, and when they come to Police Stations be friendly to them by treating them humanely, understand their grievances by speaking lovingly and take action against the culprits without showing any partiality.**

The Police Department has the capacity to create goodwill between the Government and the public. Though Police Personnel discharge

their duty well amidst many difficulties, the activities of some invite criticism. You too know that. I request you all to overcome these criticisms through your good work and involve yourselves wholly in the task of safeguarding people's welfare with the understanding that duty is the be-all and end-all and continue to do your work.

People also should appreciate the good work of the Police who work round-the-clock without even caring for their families and extend the needed cooperation so that they can work more efficiently. These medals are presented by way of appreciating the sacrifice of the men in uniform, their sense of duty and by way of honouring them. Such events encourage the recipients of medals to put in still more efficient work and inspire others to do good work. I convey my greetings to the young Deputy Superintendents of Police who have completed their training and are to involve themselves in people's service, to work efficiently in your term, get the approbation of people by rendering good service to them and get promotions in your job. Once again, I congratulate all the medallists. Congratulating all those Police Personnel who have won first prizes at the National level, I extend my good wishes for a repeat of the same in future too.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government continues to take interest in your welfare. You should be vigilant always in protecting the interests of the Country. You should make that as your goal. I am reminded of a story when I talk about 'goal'.

" Have you learnt all the philosophical tenets from your guru?", asked a friend of the Guru's disciple.

"They cannot be learnt hastily; you can learn them only little by little," replied the disciple. "Your Guru is aged. Who will teach you the tenets after him", the friend asked. The disciple felt the question was reasonable and hence sought clarification from the Guru. The Guru put a counter question: "Who guides the rivers that originate from particular places?". The disciple replied: "The force of the water determines the rivers' course". "Well said; do the rivers get astounded and stop their course on seeing hurdles in their way like rocks and forests-however big they may be?" asked the guru. "No", the disciple said. "Have you ever pondered how the river water attains its goal of reaching the river mouth", asked the guru. The disciple was confused. The Guru explained: "Small rivulets stagnate when they face great hurdles. But if there is a strong adherence to principles and great interest, the goal can be reached like the rivers cross over the hurdles". This dispelled the disciples doubt and confusion.

Your great duty to the Country and the people is to function truthfully, honestly, impartially and like a disciplined soldier protecting the borders. I request that you should keep in mind the 'taraka mantra' of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma – Peace, Prosperity, Progress – and work to continue to keep Tamil Nadu as a Garden of Peace.

"Victories, one after another will come to us/ The credit for getting them will go to you".

Your role in Tamil Nadu's success is immense. I congratulate you once again.

Vaazhga Anna Naamam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. pugazh; Thodarga Amma Avargalin Aatchi.

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

Chief Minister inaugurates PHCs in Edappadi constituency

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at a function at Pakkanadu, in Edappadi Division in Salem District on 27.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

I bow before Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, while being proud to take part in the inaugural function of Primary Health Centres in Samudram Panchayat in Konganapuram Union, in Pakkanadu and Kunnur, all under Edappadi Assembly Constituency.

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, who gave the special address,

The District Collector, who welcomed the gathering,

Hon'ble MLAs Thiru. Raja and Thiru.Maruthamuthu, Salem District Cooperative Milk Producers Union chairman, Thiru.Chinnasamy, former Panchayat Union Chairman, Thiru. Mani, former District Panchayat Union Member, Thiru. Rajendran, High officials of the Health Department, Doctors, Government officials, party volunteers, elders, ladies, and friends from the media, at the outset I welcome you all.

With a view to concede a long-pending demand of the people of this area for improved medical facilities, the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government declared open a Primary Health Centre in Pakkanadu. We have provided a Excellent medical centre very near to people living in Villages. I am happy to announce that soon a new building will be constructed for the PHC at a cost of Rs.60 lakh. If people in and around this area fall ill they can get medical assistance in the PHC at Pakkanadu. The Amma Government has provided such a medical facility to the people here.

After Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the Government in the year 2011, Amma gave importance to the health of the people. For the welfare of the poor people in rural areas, the new PHC has been upgraded with 30-bedded hospital. Hon'ble Amma has upgraded the PHC at Chittur near here with a 30-bedded hospital and allotted Rs.1 crore for constructing a building for the hospital. Similarly the PHC in Gangavalli has also been upgraded by sanctioning Rs.1 crore for constructing a building for the upgraded hospital. The Konganapuram PHC is also upgraded and Rs.1 crore has been sanctioned for constructing a building. I am happy to announce that in all these three Unions, for the poor and the downtrodden to have easy access to medical facilities, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has upgraded the PHCs. In the last 7 years, 11 PHCs have been opened in Salem District. As far as our Constituency (Edappadi) is concerned, PHCs have been opened in 4

places – Koneripatti, Kunnur, Samudram, and Pakkanadu.

The Hon'ble Amma Government has provided maternity ward, quarters for doctors and nurses at a cost of Rs. 20 crore for the PHC. At the Edappadi Taluk Government hospital, maternity ward as well as accident and operation wards have been provided at a cost of Rs.3.5 crore. With private participation, modern digital X-ray and scan facilities have been provided at the Edappadi Government Hospital, at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. Due to this, patients can get X-ray within a minute.

At the District Headquarters hospital in Mettur and at the Government hospital in Vazhapadi, Dialysis wing, children's ward, and a 30-bedded additional building have been opened at a cost of Rs. 12.3 crore and they are now in public use. At the Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital in Salem, RCH Centre of Excellence of international standard and a special maternity ward have been opened at a cost of Rs. 40 crore. Quarters for nurses and intern trainee doctors, and additional building for hospital canteens, have been opened at a cost of Rs.29 crore.

In Salem District, 42 mobile medical teams have been pressed into service, including 2 mobile teams exclusively for schools. Every year these mobile teams visit the schools and anganwadis and conduct medical camps. So far, under the Chief Minister's extended medical insurance scheme, 262 children have been treated for heart ailments, 29 children have been operated for being short of hearing, at a cost of Rs.4 lakh each, and surgeries for split lips have been done on 70 children under the Chief Minister's Medical Insurance Scheme. These are all the achievements of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government.

With the foresight of helping people lead a healthier life, the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government started Amma Health Scheme. Under the scheme, people who are above

30 years of age can undergo master check-up once in a year at all District Government Primary Health Centres. In Salem District alone, 2.53 lakh people have benefited so far.

The Amma Government treats people after diagnosing the disease. For the convenience of the old and pregnant women in far off villages, mobile medical vans are functioning. One medical van every year has been sanctioned for the District and now 21 medical vans are in operation now in Salem District. One need not go to the hospital for treatment. I am happy to announce that in the present Amma Government, the hospital itself comes to your door-step, diagnoses the disease and treats you by giving proper medicines.

During last year, in Salem District in every division three special camps and 60 medical camps were conducted in far off villages and 59,247 persons were treated. Of this, 327 beneficiaries were registered for higher medical treatment under the Chief Minister's Extended Medical Insurance Scheme. Like this, the Government, which is interested in the welfare of the people, has been implementing various schemes for the welfare of the people. Today, Tamil Nadu is the only State where the best medical facilities are available. Nowhere in the country does one get such good medical treatment.

There may be many Government hospitals and headquarters hospitals in the country. But most of them do have modern facilities like in Tamil Nadu. For example, a patient, belonging to Athur in Dindigul District lost both his hands. For that patient, doctors in Stanley Hospital, Chennai transplanted hands from a dead person successfully. This is a milestone achievement in the medical history of Tamil Nadu. This is not a small issue. The man with transplanted hands is now normal and he will be discharged after two months. Similarly in Madurai, heart transplantation has been done successfully for a patient and he is now normal. Such transplantations are done in Government and private hospitals.

Tamil Nadu stands first in the last three years in transplantation operations. In such operations, organs from a dead person are removed and successfully grafted on to patients. Such is the development of medical field in Tamil Nadu. I congratulate and thank the doctors who are performing these transplantations.

Not only that, the present Government has many schemes for women. In Edappadi Constituency, many schemes are being implemented for them, especially in Pakkanadu. We have provided quality roads from Jalakandapuram to Pakkanadu, from Pakkanadu to Edappadi via Chittur, from Aanaipallam to Kalluralkadu, Velakali Muniammal Palayam, Ammankovil via Poolampatti, and Vanniyar Nagar, Mettutheru to Aruvaipatti .

A bridge at a cost of Rs.1 crore in Kondappanmedu and another bridge near Pakkanadu-Kariakali Amman Koil costing Rs. 1 crore have been provided. Primary Health Centres have been opened under the Family Welfare Department.

You demanded a veterinary hospital in this area for a long time and it was conceded by the

Amma Government and the building has been constructed for the veterinary hospital. All your demands have been conceded. You placed a demand for bus service from Jalakandapuram to Erode, and Poolampatti to Salem. The demand has been conceded. All your demands made during the Assembly elections have been granted by the Amma Government.

I would like to point out that I am very particular in implementing the necessary schemes for Pakkanadu, Aadaiyur, Iruppali, and Chittur villages. I am happy to note that despite the hot sun, people from all walks of life have come in large numbers to participate in the function where welfare measures are to be distributed on behalf of various departments.

Under Health and Family Planning, Rural Development, Revenue Department, Agriculture Department, Agricultural Engineering Department, Horticulture Department, Fisheries Department, Silk Development Department, and Differently abled Department, schemes worth Rs.30.28 crore have been either inaugurated or foundation stones have been laid.

The Government has been implementing many schemes in Edappadi constituency. Already under the integrated drinking water supply scheme, a situation has been created where in people can get safe drinking water. I assure you that the Government will take all possible measures to provide basic amenities in this area.

Finally, I thank all those who worked for the success of the function.

Nandri Vanakkam.

17th April : Dheeran Chinnamalai Birth Anniversary

Dheeran Chinnamalai: Inveterate foe of the British

Chinnamalai's parents named him Theerthamalai. He later became known as Dheeran Chinnamalai. Chinnamalai is his heroic name.

While Veerapandiya Kattabomman refused to pay taxes to Britishers, Theeran Chinnamalai was against their very presence in the Country. He was of the opinion that Britishers had no place in this Country. He wanted to drive away the Britishers from this soil and started working for it.

First, Dheeran Chinnamalai conquered the place where he lived. He also protected his land from the Britishers. He fought with them on many occasions and drove them away. He was against living like a slave. He fought for freedom and was never afraid of losing his life. Every Indian should know about the heroic life of Dheeran Chinnamalai.

From: Veerathilagam Dheeran Chinnamalai

Chief Minister opens one-of-a-kind insects museum in Coimbatore

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, after inaugurating the Insects Museum at the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University campus, Coimbatore, on 26.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

I bow to the feet of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma before beginning my speech.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikkannu, who delivered the presidential address in the inaugural function of the Insects Museum here,

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture Department, my friend Thiru. Mahendran, MP, who is gracing the function, Hon'ble MLAs, Thiru. Amman K.Arjunan, Thiru. P.R.G. Arunkumar, Thiru. O.K.Chinnaraj, Thiru. V.C.Aarukutty, Thiru. Kanakaraj, Thiru. Ettimadai Shanmugham, Tmt.Kasthuri Vasu, and Thiru. Murugumaaran, former Minister Thiru. Krishnamurthi, District Collector, Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru. K.C.Karuppannan, who is participating in the function as special guest, professors of the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, High Government officials, former MPs and MLAs, and Vice-chancellor of the University

Dr. K. Ramasamy, who is to propose the vote of thanks, farmer friends, friend from the visual and print media at the outset I welcome you all.

Earlier I thought of inaugurating this museum from Chennai through video conferencing. But the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, the Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture Department, Minister Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and other District MLAs appealed to me to come in person to inaugurate the museum. They said that only then I would know the special features of the museum. They said that as I was a farmer I would get first-hand knowledge of how the insects affect the crops, and how many species are there among such insects.

After visiting the museum, I could really know how many insects varieties are there in Tamil Nadu and in the Country as well. In the museum, the officials said, there are 75,000 varieties of insects. The total number of insects in the museum is only 6 per cent compared to the number of insects in the world. Only after visiting the museum, I came to know that there are 75,000 varieties of insects. By visiting the museum one can understand which insects do good to people, which could do harm and which are dreadful in their effects.

I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Principal Secretary, Vice-Chancellor, his team of professors, and former professors and students for their efforts to establish this museum, which is educative to farmers and the common people.

It is easy to talk. But it is difficult to implement. People here have done an excellent

job by presenting various varieties of insects in a life-like manner and showcasing them in a beautiful manner .

The Principle Secretary in his speech said at the international level, there are only 20 museums of this type. But those museums are not of this standard. Not only in India but also at the international level, this is the only museum where the functions of the insects are clearly explained. The museum authorities have given a vivid explanation of how the insects develop and grow and how they harm plants and crops or how they cause a beneficial impact. Besides, they have given the list of diseases that would affect people when subject to the bites of the insects. I would like students not only from this area but also from all over the State to visit the museum in person to gain a good knowledge about insects. Science is developing every day and the development is phenomenal. Side by side, there has been a steady growth of insects also. Through this museum one can gain knowledge about good and bad insects.

However much a farmer toils to grow crops, some insects damage them. The insects attack the stem of the crops and damage the crops. As this happens during the advanced stage of the crops, it causes heavy loss to the farmer. In cotton crops, the insects suck the marrow of the stem resulting in breaking away of the stem. These are all explained graphically in the museum here. The museum also provides ways to control the stem insects. This will be educative to farmers. Insects can be controlled by spraying proper insecticides. Students

from the Agriculture University can learn and improve their knowledge from the museum.

This museum has been set up at a cost of Rs.5 crore. There is only one museum of this kind in India and the museum has been set up by the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University. In Asia, only in West China there is a big insects museum, set up in an area of 6,691 square ft. In the USA, there are insect museums in many States.

In the laboratory attached to the Museum here, an Insectoscope has been installed at a cost of Rs.12 crore. There is also a microbiological lab set up at a cost of Rs.6 crore. I would like to point out that the State Government has allotted Rs.5 crore for this project.

It is necessary for all people, especially farmers, to visit this museum. It will help farmers to take correct measures to prevent pest attacks on their crops. In this connection, I am happy to inaugurate the museum. Coimbatore Agriculture University is one of the best Universities where new crop varieties are developed at regular intervals for improving productivity. The students studying here should bring more laurels to the University by inventing new techniques for the benefit of farmers.

Once again I thank you for inviting me to the function and for giving me an opportunity to declare open the museum.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

Chief Minister reiterates great gains of co-operation with Centre

From common people flying in planes to infrastructure projects, State reaps the benefits

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the inaugural ceremony of Salem-Chennai flight by Trujet under the UDAN Scheme in Salem Airport on 25.03.2018 (*English Translation*).

Chief Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Government Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S., who welcomed the gathering, Thiru. Rajiv Nayan Choubey, Union Secretary for Civil Aviation, who delivered the project report, Hon'ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation ,Thiru. Suresh Prabhu, who is responsible for inaugurating the air services, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping, Thiru. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Thiru. P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Thiru. K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and

Noon Meal programme, Tmt.V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Thiru. K.C.Karuppannan, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Constituency MP Thiru. V.Panneerselvam, Constituency MLA Thiru. Vetrivel, Lok Sabha MPs, Thiru.P.R.Sundaram, Thiru. Kamaraj, and Thiru. Ela.Ganesan, former Minister Thiru. Semmalai, MLAs Thiru.Venkatachalam, Thiru. A.B.Sakthivel, P.Manonmani, Thiru. S.Raja, Thiru. R.M.Chinnathambi, Thiru. A.Maruthamuthu, Tmt. K.Chitra, Thiru. K.P.P. Baskar, Thiru C.Chandrasekaran, and Tmt.Pon Saraswathi, State President of the BJP, Dr.Tamilisai Soundararajan, BJP frontline leader Tmt. Vanathi Srinivasan, State Co-operative Bank President Thiru. R. Elangovan, Milk Producers Co-operative Union chairman Thiru. R.Chinnasami, Managing Director of the Trujet Thiru.Premkumar Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer Thiru. Vishak Mansingh, Salem District Collector Tmt.Rohini.R.Bhajibhakare, party volunteers, and BJP' frontline office-bearers, Government Staff, Employees of the Civil Aviation Department, ladies, and elders, industrialists, friends from the visual and print media, at the outset I welcome you all. I am happy to inaugurate, the flight service to and from Salem to Chennai under Udan Scheme.

'Paravaiyai Kandan, Vimanam Padaithan' (Man invented the plane after seeing birds fly), sang Kavignar Kannadasan. The Wright Brothers invented the plane. In the beginning, travel by flight was possible only for affluent people and for the poor and downtrodden it was only a dream. To enable even for the poor to travel by air, the Prime Minister launched UDAN Scheme on 21.10.2016. Under the scheme, even small towns are connected to big metropolis by air at a lesser cost.

The main aim of the UDAN scheme is to upgrade runaways and airports in the Country, to develop airports, which are either not in use

or having lesser patronage, providing regional air connectivity and making flying affordable for the masses. Thirteen airports in small towns have been selected in the Country by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for introducing air services and in the first phase Salem and Neyveli in Tamil Nadu have been selected for introduction of flight services.

Realizing the importance of the scheme, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government entered into an MoU with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation on 08.06.2017.

As per the MoU, the Tamil Nadu Government issued a Government order reducing the Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel to 1 per cent.

Security and fire service operations will be provided free by the State Government in these airports under the scheme. The State Government will provide 20 per cent viability gap funding for flight operations under the UDAN scheme.

Utilizing these incentives, airline companies will operate services at a reduced flight fare, which in turn will benefit the common man for travelling by air.

I am really happy to participate in the function to inaugurate the flight services under UDAN Scheme from Salem. Due to introduction of flight services from Salem, traders, educated people, middle class people and others in the nearby towns in Salem District and Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Krishnagiri and Dhamapuri Districts will be benefited.

To introduce bigger flights from Salem airport, expansion of the airport is necessary. After expansion of the airport, bigger flights will be operated from the Salem airport.

In a similar manner, the Hon'ble Amma Government is working on schemes for improving other airports in the State to international standards.

For the expansion of Chennai Airport, the Government had already handed over 129.80 acres of land out of the required 229.17 acres of land to the Airport Authority of India. To hand over the balance 99.37 acres of land, GOs have been issued for take over of the land and land value work is being done. Necessary steps are being taken for early transfer of another 35.97 acres of defence land to the Airport Authority of India.

For the expansion of the Madurai Airport, as against the required land of 615.92 acres, land value has been assessed for 466.43 acres of patta land and GO has been issued for payment of Rs.166,69,39,754/- as interim land value of the land.

To facilitate expansion of the Coimbatore Airport, 627.89 acres of land have been required. Of this, 461.90 acres are patta land value. A committee has been appointed to review the value of the land and fix the revised value. Speedy steps are being taken to transfer another 134.32 acres of land, belonging to defence, to Airport Authority of India.

For the expansion of the Thoothukudi Airport, 366.24 acres of land out of the required 605.93 acres of land, have already been transferred to AAI. The value of the balance 238.76 acres of land has been assessed and for this purpose Rs.9 crore has been allotted in the current financial year 2018-2019.

Administrative sanction has been given for the take over of 345.62 acres of patta and poramboke land on 04.05.2018 for the expansion of Tiruchirappalli Airport and acquisition of the land is under progress. Another 164.88 acres of defence land required for the expansion is to be transferred to AAI.

I am happy to announce that steps are being taken to facilitate air service to Vellore and Thanjavur towns in the next phase under the UDAN Scheme.

Similarly road infrastructure is being upgraded to provide green corridor between Salem and Chennai at a cost of Rs.10,000 crore. The project, which is being undertaken jointly by the Central and State Governments, is under consideration of the Central Government.

If the project is completed, then distance between Salem and Chennai will be reduced by 60 kms and the travelling time will be considerably reduced from 6 hours to 3 hours.

I am happy to announce that this will be the first green corridor project in Tamil Nadu.

I am thankful to Hon'ble Prime Minister, and Hon'ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation. My special thanks to the Hon'ble Secretary for Civil Aviation, who was instrumental in bringing Salem in the air map of the Country and took personal interest for bringing the first air services to Salem. Now the State Government is getting a number of schemes through the Central Government.

Today, many opposition parties are against the State Government co-ordinating with the Central Government. There is a Government in the State and a Government at the Centre. Only if they work in unison, the State will be benefited and get schemes beneficial to the people. Due to co-operation of the State with the Centre, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has conceded many of our demands.

Under the Housing scheme, the State has been permitted to construct as many houses as possible with Central assistance. The Centre said that it was ready to provide assistance for constructing any number of lakhs of houses for the poor. Under the scheme, poor families, who are not having houses would get houses of their own. This was possible only due to congenial relationship prevailing between the Centre and the State Governments.

Infrastructure is necessary for the industrial development in the State. Only if the infrastructure is developed the industries will prosper. For this, the Central Government is with the State Government for large-scale improvement of the infrastructure in the State. Today we saw many roads being expanded with the assistance of the Central Government. Under the scheme, for the first time, the State is to get its Green Corridor project from Salem to Chennai.

When I brought it to the notice of the Union Minister of State for Surface Transport and Shipping, he immediately gave an assurance that a by-pass road would be set up and announced the project recently in Chennai. This by-pass will branch off at Attayampatti on the Namakkal -Salem National Highways and will link Omalur via Vennathur, Attayampatti, Kakkapalayam, Ilampillai, K.R.Thoppur, and Muthunaickenpatti. The by-pass road will be 42 km long, and greatly reduce the congestion in Salem.

Today we are improving the infrastructure in the State, which has resulted in more and more industries coming to the State for investments. To improve exports, development of Port is essential. For the expansion of the Thoothukudi Port, sufficient funds are allotted. Similarly in Kanniyakumari District, Union Minister of State for Shipping and Transport Thiru.Pon.Radhakrishnan used to reiterate that steps are to be taken for setting up a port with an investment of several thousand crores of rupees. Hon'ble Prime Minister is also saying so. Even during the lifetime of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma there were demands from many people for setting up a port there. The State Government will provide all necessary help to the Central Government for setting up the port. Employment opportunities will increase

only by developing the industrial sector. When new industries start coming it will create employment opportunities for educated youth and through that economic development will take place. For this the infrastructure should be improved and incentives should be given for exports. I am happy to say that the Tamil Nadu is now doing these two things.

At this juncture I am happy to know that the Union Minister for Shipping and Transports has informed that spare parts units for defence sector are to come up soon in Hosur, Coimbatore and Salem area. For this, I thank the Hon'ble Union Minister. When the project comes through, it would provide employment opportunities to educated youth here. This will bring enormous benefits to people here.

On this occasion, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Hon'ble Union Secretary for Civil Aviation for making the air services between Salem and Chennai a reality. I thank all the people, including media personnel for the success of the function and those who are sitting on the dais.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

NEWS IN PICTURE

Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami** presided over a consultative meeting, convened at the Secretariat on 29.03.2018 to consider the follow up legal action to be taken on the Cauvery issue in the light of the time limit set by the Supreme Court in its judgment of 16.02.2018, which was about to expire. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S., Hon'ble Ministers, Secretaries and Government High Officials participated.

Steps to keep water flowing during the hot summer

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami chaired a review meeting at the Secretariat on 17.04.2018 to consider the steps to be taken for uninterrupted supply of drinking water to people during the summer.

Hon'ble Chief Minister had already issued orders allotting Rs.200 crore for regular drinking water supply in the months of May and June – Rs. 50 crore for rural areas, Rs.120 crore for municipal and urban areas, Rs. 14 crore for Town Panchayats and Rs.16 crore for Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. He had also instructed officials to prepare schemes for saving rain water and re-cycling of drainage water after treatment. As for Chennai Metro, the Chennai Metro Water Supply and Drainage Board was asked to prepare new plans for water supply to areas not served by pipe connections.

After reviewing matters connected with Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that the outstanding in respect of crop insurance compensation be collected immediately from the insurance companies and handed over to farmers.

Senior I.A.S. officers in the rank of Government Secretary have been already appointed as District Monitoring Officers. They have been directed to visit their respective Districts next week, study the water distribution situation and advise the District Collectors.

Request to Prime Minister seeking Cauvery Board immediately

Memorandum presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, on 12.04.2018 for the formation of Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to constitute the Cauvery Management Board immediately. As you are aware, the Supreme Court in its verdict on 16.02.2018 has directed that a scheme should be formulated by the Government of India within six weeks to implement the notified Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by its judgment. Further, on 09.04.2018, the Supreme Court has clearly stated that the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has merged with the judgment of the Supreme Court.

Therefore, constitution of the "Cauvery Management Board" has become an integral part of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment.

The farmers of the Delta areas of Tamil Nadu who are dependent on Cauvery Water for Irrigation are fervently hoping that the above implementation machinery would be constituted by the Government of India to enable them to commence the agricultural operations in the next irrigation season which starts on 01.06.2018.

I earnestly request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to immediately constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee vested with all powers to effectively implement the orders of the Tribunal and the Supreme Court.

Ukkadam bridge as per plan, will be done in three phases

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at a function in Thondamuthur in Coimbatore on 26.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

My pranams to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset I welcome, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani, who is over the foundation stone laying function for an integrated drinking water supply scheme by drawing water from the river Bhavani and for construction of river bridges on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam, who felicitated the occasion with his valuable ideas, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman. who gave a special address, and Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru K.A.Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Thiru. P.Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Thiru. K.C.Karuppannan, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Thiru. Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru. Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Disaster Management, Thiru. R.B.Udhaya Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare & Nutritions Noon Meal Programme, Dr.V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, Thiru. K.T.Rajenthrabhalaji, Hon'ble MPs

and MLAs, former members of Local bodies, office-bearers of the co-operative societies, elders, ladies and friends of media.

We are implementing many welfare schemes for the benefit of the people. But the Opposition parties are making false allegations that the present Government has not done anything for the people. Hon'ble Amma as well as the present Amma Government have been implementing many schemes for the people.

During the 2011 Assembly elections, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the election manifesto assured one lakh two-wheelers to working women with a maximum subsidy of Rs. 25,000 per scooter. So far, 3,36,000 people have registered for the scheme. The scheme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at a function in Chennai on the Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Similarly, to commemorate the 70th birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 70 lakh tree saplings are to be planted during the year. This function was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister by planting a sapling at the function in Chennai.

Throughout Tamil Nadu, good roads are being laid. On this occasion, I am happy to announce that bus ports, with facilities similar to airports, are under consideration of the Central Government in Coimbatore, Salem , Madurai and other towns.

This Amma Government accepted the demand of the people here for metro rail project in Coimbatore. I am happy to announce in this function that plans are afoot for implementing the project in Coimbatore.

Similarly, people here spoke about the Ukkadam bridge. There will be an over-bridge from Atthupalam to Ukkadam Junction. Ukkadam -Athupalam overbridge will start from the Karumbukadai area on the Dindigul-Bengaluru National Highways and end at Ukkadam Market area. The new bridge, for which the foundation stone was laid today, will have three phases. In the first phase the four-lane over-bridge will be 1.36 km from Athupalam to Ukkadam Junction. The second phase will be a two-way bridge from Ukkadam Junction to Oppanakara Street and it will be of 345 metre length, and the third phase will be from two-lane bridge from Town Hall to Ukkadam Junction and will be of 1.970 km length. I am happy to announce at this juncture, the State Government has allotted Rs. 215.51 crore for this project towards land acquisition, and construction of bridges. This bridge is to be situated at Ukkadam, the heart of Coimbatore town. When the project is completed it will reduce the traffic congestion to a great extent. The bridge has been designed in a way that traffic coming to Coimbatore from Kerala, Pollachi, and Palani will have an easy passage. The proposed bridge will benefit over 10 lakh people in the City.

There were reports in the media that the bridge was not properly designed. That was wrong information. The proposed bridge has been so designed for the benefit of the people. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government will implement schemes only if they are useful and beneficial to the public.

Nandri, Vanakkam. ■

Tamil scholars and savants awarded

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, presented at the Secretariat on 05.04.2018, ninety awards to Tamil scholars and honoured them. The awards distributed were Thamizh Thai Award, Kapilar Award, U.Ve.Sa. Award, Kambar Award, Sollin Selvar Award, G.U.Pope Award, Umaru Pulavar Award, Elango Adigal Award, Amma Ilakkiya Award and Best Translator for the year 2017, Chief Minister Computer Tamil Award for 2016 and Ulaga Tamizh Sanga Awards and Tamizh Chemmal Awards for the years 2016 and 2017.

By way of honouring wise men and Tamil Scholars who toil for the development of Tamil language, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma presented Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards to them every year.

The Bangalore Tamizh Sangam was selected for the Thamizh Thai Award for the year 2017 and the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented its office bearers a cheque for Rs. 5 lakh as award money, a shield, citation and a ponnadai.

Following are the awardees for the year 2017: Kapilar Award – Dr. K.V. Balasubramanian who has been leaving his unique imprints in the field of stone inscription reading and archaeology, U.Ve.Sa Award - Thiru. S.Krishnamurthy, eminent in publication of palm leaf manuscripts and excavation, Kambar Award –Tamil scholar Thiru.Suki. Sivam, who extols the greatness of Kambar in all platforms, Sollin Selvar Award – Dr. Vaigaiselvan, well known orator, dedicated to the task of spreading Tamil, G.U.Pope Award – Tmt. K. Rajeswari, excellent translator, translating Tamil literary works into foreign languages, Umaru Pulavar Award – Tamil scholar Thiru. Haji M. Mohammed Yusuf, savant of Tamil and Tamil literature, Elango Adigal Award – Dr. V. Nallathambi, serving the cause of Tamil on the style of Elango Adigal, Amma Literary Award –Dr. M.S.Srilakshmi

of Singapore, author of literary works that extol the greatness of womanhood and the Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award for 2016 – Thiru. R. Doraipandi, founder of Ultimate Software, excellent promoter of Tamil in the field of computer.

Hon'ble Chief Minister presented them each a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh, a gold medal weighing one sovereign, citation and a ponnadai.

Best translator awards for the year 2017 were given to Thiru. Nellai S. Muthu, Thiru. T.V. Deivasigamani (Thesini), Thiru. A. Selvarasu @ Kurinjivelan, Dr. Aanaivaari Anandan, Thiru. Maravan Pulavu Sachidanandam, Tmt. Vasantha Shyamalam, Dr.R.G.Aldurai, Prof. C.A. Sankaranarayanan, Tmt. Andal Priyadarsini and Dr. Tarlochan Singh Bedi. They were presented with a cheque for Rs.one lakh, citation and a ponnadai each.

The awardees for the Ulaga Thamizh Sanga Awards for the year 2016: for literature – Thiru. N.Andiappan of Singapore, Grammar – Thiru. Benjamin Lebo of France, linguistics – Dr. Subashini of Germany; and for the year 2017 : literature –Dr.Chandrika Subramanian of Australia, grammar-Dr. Ulrike Nicholas of Germany and for linguistics –Thiru. Mahadeva Iyer Jayarama Sarma of Australia. They were honoured with a cheque for Rs.one lakh, a citation and a ponnadai each.

The awardees for Thamizh Semmal award for 2016: Kavignar Bharathi Sukumaran (Chennai District), Thiru. Pakkam Pratapasimhan @ S. Pakkam Thamizhan (Tiruvallur), Thiru.T.P.Elangovan (Kancheepuram), Prof. Dr. Rathina Natarasan (Vellore), Thiru. Karumalai Tamilaalan (Krishnagiri), Thiru. P.Kuppan (Tiruvannamalai), Pulavar P. Jayaraman (Villupuram), C.Ramasamy (Cuddalore), Dr. K. Periasamy (Perambalur), Poovai S.Jayaraman (Ariyalur), Dr.K. Ganesan (Salem), Dr. V.Sanjeevirayan (Dharmapuri), Dr. Arasu Parameswaran (Namakkal), Thiru.P.Balan (Erode), Thiru. Ezhilvaanan (Karur), Thiru. M.P.Ramalingam (Coimbatore), Thiru. P. Subrabharathi Manian (Tiruppur), Pulavar Kamalam Chinnasamy (Nilgiris), Thiru.P. Muthukumarasamy (Tiruchirappalli), Kavignar Thangam Moorthy (Pudukkottai), Prof.M.Aikkan (Sivagangai), Thiru. M. Mohamed Dhaha (Thanjavur), Thiru.A.Sivasubramanian (A.Si.Manian) (Tiruvarur), Pulavar J. Shanmugam (Nagapattinam), Kavignar

Thasleem Kaja (Ramanathapuram), Dr. M.N. Azhagiya Nagalingam (Madurai), Thiru.S.Sudarmurugaiah (Dindigul), Thiru. T.Subbarayalu (Theni), Kavignar J.Ramanathan (Virudhunagar), Tmt. A. Bala Saraswathi (Tirunelveli), Thiru. K. Karuthapandi (Thoothukudi) and Dr. M. Alphonse Nadhaniyel (Kanniyakumari). And,

For the year 2017: Thiruvalargal V.Prabhakaran (Chennai), V.Vijayarangan (Tiruvallur), Dr. P.S.Yesudasan (Kancheepuram), M.S. Thangavelan (Vellore), Tmt. M. Manimegalai (Krishnagiri), Tmt. Sami Thamizhselvi Kamalakannan (Tiruvannamalai), Dr. P.K. Narayanasamy (Villupuram), Prof.R.S.Kuzhandaivelan (Cuddalore), Vai. Desingurasan Thenarasan (Perambalur), Dr. P. Sethuraman (Ariyalur), M.Pandurangan (Salem), Dr. K. Kannan (Dharmapuri), Kavignar N. Dhanabalan (Namakkal), P. Ramasamy (Umaiavan) (Erode), Melai Pazhaniappan (Karur), P. Ravikumar (Coimbatore), Dr. V. Ananthkumar (Tiruppur), T.Ganesan (Nilgiris), Dr. P. Subramanian (Tiruchirappalli), R.Sampathkumar(Pudukkottai), Tmt.V.Deivayani (Devi Nachiappan) (Sivagangai), Prof.Dr.V.A.Elavazhagan (Thanjavur), Maruthuvar Azha. Meenatchi Sundaram (Tiruvarur), M.Venkatesabharathi (Nagapattinam), M.A.Sundararajan (Ramanathapuram), Maruthuvar T.Meykandan (Madurai), M.Vaithyalingan (Dindigul), Pulavar M. Rasarathinam (Theni), S.Joseph (Virudhunagar), Dr. P. Rathinasabapathy (Tirunelveli), R.Raj (Thoothukudi) and K.Subbaiah (Kanniyakumari).

They were all presented with a cheque for Rs.25,000/-, a citation and a ponnadai each.

News in Picture

On the occasion of the Chithirai full moon day on 29.04.2018, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament and High Officials of Government paid floral tribute, on behalf of Government, to a portrait of Kannagi, placed near her statue on the Kamarajar Salai, Marina, Chennai.

'Tamil Nadu firmly fighting for its rights on Cauvery'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 31.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

For four years after the Cauvery water Disputes Tribunal gave its final verdict on 05.02.2007, the DMK Government that was in power in the State and shared power at the Centre, did not lift even its little finger to get that order published in the Central Government gazette.

An all-party meeting was held on 19.02.2007 after the final verdict was given on 05.02.2007. At that meeting, it was urged on behalf of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, that constructive and whole-hearted steps be initiated for the immediate publication of the Tribunal's final verdict in the Central Government gazette and for the implementation of the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee in the interest of Tamil Nadu, as it would take some years to get those features of the verdict that were against the interests of Tamil Nadu removed and get a favourable judgment.

The Karnataka and Kerala Governments went in appeal to the Supreme Court against the Tribunal's verdict. Tamil Nadu too filed a civil suit petition in appeal, seeking the deletion of some features of the verdict that went against its interests.

Even while these appeals were pending in the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma continued to press the Centre, after assuming the office of Chief Minister in 2011, to publish the Tribunal's final verdict in the central Government gazette. As the Central Government acted in a step-motherly fashion, a petition was filed on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government in the Supreme Court. As a result of the intelligent arguments of senior advocates engaged by the Tamil Nadu Government, the Supreme Court ordered the publication of the final verdict in Central Government gazette before 20.02.2013. The Central Government carried out the order in its gazette dated 19.02.2013.

On the next day, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced the gazette publication was a great victory to Tamil Nadu. At the function at Thanjavur on 09.03.2013 to celebrate the victory, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said that this victory for Tamil Nadu was heartily hailed by the

Opposition party friends, neutral-minded people, farmers and all people.

After hearing the civil appeals, the Supreme Court gave its final judgment on 16.02.2018. In that judgment, the court said the Central Government should set up within six weeks the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, as mentioned in the Tribunal's final verdict and that the time frame would not be extended. The judgment did not effect any changes in the Tribunal's final verdict barring specifying Tamil Nadu's share of water as 177.75 tmc ft. of water.

A meeting of all parties and representatives of farmers' associations was held on 22.02.2018 to discuss the follow-up action to be taken on the Supreme Court's judgment dated 16.02.2018. Resolutions were passed at the meeting urging the Central Government to set up, as per the Supreme Court's orders, the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee with absolute powers and to take appropriate action, in respect of the reduction of 14.75 tmc ft. of water, effected by the Supreme Court in the allocation of waters made to Tamil Nadu by the Tribunal, in the light of the views expressed by the leaders of parties and in consultation with legal experts.

I stressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in person when he came to Chennai on 24.02.2018 for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation committee. The same was emphasized to Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganges Rejuvenation Thiru. Nitin Gadkari, by me and a letter was given to him when he came to Chennai on 25.02.2018. I also sought, through a letter, an appointment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister as per the resolution passed at the meeting of all parties and representatives of farmers' associations, for discussing this issue.

At the meeting convened by the Central Ministry of Water Resources at New Delhi on 09.03.2018, a team of top officials including the Chief Secretary who participated on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, emphatically urged the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the Supreme Court judgment and as mentioned in the final verdict of the Tribunal with absolute powers for effective implementation of the Tribunal's orders. The Chief Secretary to Government wrote letters to the Union Ministry of Water Resources in respect of the setting up of these two bodies, on 13.03.2018, 21.03.2018 and 23.03.2018.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed an unanimous resolution, at a meeting specially convened on 15.03.2018, asking the Central Government to set up, as per the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal and the Supreme Court judgment, the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee with absolute powers to effectively implement the Tribunal's final verdict, within six weeks as mentioned in the Supreme Court judgment and bring them into force. I dispatched this resolution to the Hon'ble Prime Minister the same day for immediate action.

For the next course of action to be taken up by Tamil Nadu Government, as mentioned in the resolution passed at the meeting of all parties and farmers' representatives, on 22.02.2018 a team of top officials of Tamil Nadu Government met on 27.03.2018 at New Delhi, all the advocates who had argued Tamil Nadu's case in the court on the Cauvery issue, including senior advocate Thiru. Shekhar Naphade. On the basis of that consultation, it was decided to wait for the expiry of the six weeks time, mandated by the Supreme Court and to take thereafter appropriate action.

With the intent of pressuring the Central Government on this issue, AIADMK Members of Parliament raised the matter with the result that no business could be transacted in both the Houses. Still, the Central Government has not set up these bodies till date

As the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court was drawing to a close, I held a detailed discussion on 29.03.2018 with Senior Ministers, Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, Chief Secretary and High Officials of the Government on the follow up action to be taken on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government. It was decided at the meeting that the Tamil Nadu Government should file a contempt of court case against the Central Government in the Supreme Court if the Centre did not set up the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee before the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court. In the context where the deadline had expired and the two bodies were not set up, a contempt of Court case was filed against the Central Government in the Supreme Court on 31.03.2018. I advised the advocates appearing for the Tamil Nadu Government to press for the hearing of this case immediately on 02.04.2018 before the First Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice.

After the expiry of the Supreme Court's deadline and after the filing of the contempt case by the Tamil Nadu Government, the Central Government has filed a petition today (31.03.2018), seeking three months' time and clarification for the word "scheme" (used by the Supreme Court in its judgment) as to whether it means the Cauvery Management Board or any plan thought out by the Central Government. After the Supreme Court delivered its judgment on 16.02.2018, the Central Government could have sought the clarifications immediately. This petition of the Central Government is contrary to the verdicts of the Cauvery Tribunal and the Supreme Court.

I have advised the Senior Advocates appearing for Tamil Nadu to oppose this petition when it comes up for hearing, even at the admission stage and seek a clear direction to the Central Government for the immediate setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

I wish to State that this Government, following the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma will continue to take up firmly all measures to establish our rights in the Cauvery issue which is one of life and death for Tamil Nadu and protect the livelihood of our farmers.

Students honoured for knowing all Tirukkural verses by heart

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami presented at the Secretariat on 01.03.2018 cheques to a total value of Rs.5 lakh to 50 students as also appreciation certificates for their proficiency in reciting from memory all the 1,330 couplets of Tirukkural. They have been awarded Rs.10,000/- each under the "Tirukkural Mutrothal Paaraattu Parisu" scheme of the Department of Tamil Development.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also blessed 13 students of the International Institute of Tamil Research who are leaving for Malaysia to take up Tamil research in the Sultan Idris Education University, for their doctorate degree in the Institute.

The Tirukkural recitation competition is an annual event. The presentation of the awards is for the winners in the competition held for the year 2017-2018.

The Demands for Grants for the Department of Tamil Development for the year 2017-2018 has stated that an exchange programme of doctorate students between the International Institute of Tamil Research and Universities in Countries like Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka will be implemented to help students do part of their research in foreign countries for their doctorate degrees in Tamil. The 13 students who met and got the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister are due to leave for Malaysia on March 4th for taking up part of their research at the Sultan Idris Education University. They will stay there for 27 days.

'Severe action against those who vandalise statues'

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 21.03.2018 on the damage caused to a Periyar statue at Alangudi, Pudukkottai District and at Tirupattur in Vellore District *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Dravidar Kazhagam had installed a life-size concrete statue of Periyar near the panchayat elementary school at the village of Pudukkottai Viduthi in the Alangudi police limits of Pudukkottai District on 25.04.2013. An unidentified person damaged the head portion of the statue on 19.03.2018. On receipt of the information, the police, with the help of villagers, restored the statue to its original form.

On a complaint from Thiru. Ravanan, the zonal leader of Dravidar Kazhagam, police registered a case under Sections 295 and 153(B) of IPC read with Sec.3 of the Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act. Separate police teams were formed and investigation was launched to identify and arrest the culprit.

The Deputy Director General of Police, Tiruchirappalli range and Pudukkottai District Superintendent of Police went to the village and provided security to prevent untoward incidents there.

Investigations revealed that Senthil Kumar, a Havildar in the Central Reserve Police Force in Chattisgarh State, had come to his native village of Pudukkottai Viduthi on leave on 15.03.2018 and was found to have frequented the area on the night of the incident. CCTV camera recordings and witnesses revealed this. On interrogation, Senthil Kumar confessed to damaging the Periyar statue. Inquiries further

revealed that he had opposed the selection of the site near his house for the installation of Periyar statue in 2013 and had threatened to break the statue if it was installed. Senthil Kumar was arrested and sent to judicial custody.

Quick action by the police resulted in the apprehension of the culprit within 12 hours.

Likewise, on 06.03.2018, miscreants damaged Thanthai Periyar statue in the Tirupattur Taluk office complex. Police immediately made security arrangements in the area and saw to it that no untoward incident took place. On a complaint from Thiru. Elangovan, Town Secretary of Dravidar Kazhagam, police registered a case and took up investigation.

Inquiries revealed that Muthukumaran, Town Secretary of BJP and Francis were involved in this incident. They were arrested. A two-wheeler used for this incident was also seized.

Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma will take severe action against law-breakers, whoever they are. Both these incidents are condemnable. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition through you, that Government will, without any bias, take severe action against those who damage the statues of leaders, however mighty they might be. ■

Rs. 2 lakh to family of drowning victim

Clarification in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, on relief to the family of Thiru. Susmidasan who drowned in the Vellaiyaru on 21.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Nagapattinam District Collector has sent a detailed report to the Government on the drowning and death of Master Susmidasan, son of Thiru. Murugesan of Serudur village, Kilvelur Taluk, Nagapattinam District on the Vellaiyaru near Velankanni on 05.12.2017.

In his report, the District Collector has stated that Master Susmidasan did not die in the floods of Vellaiyaru on account of the Ockhi cyclone on 05.12.2017 but got drowned when he slipped into the river due to severe head injuries sustained when the small catamaran in which he went with his friend Damodaran for fishing dashed against the sluice gate across the river and capsized. Though he knew swimming, he could not due to the injuries.

Still, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member that Rs.2 lakh will be disbursed from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the family of the deceased, taking into account its condition. ■

Traffic inspector arrested

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 21.03.2018 over the accidental fall from the pillion of a two wheeler and death of a woman, during a vehicle check at Thiruverumbur *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Thiruverumbur Traffic Inspector Kamarajar stopped a speeding two wheeler vehicle near Thuvakudi check post, Tiruchirappalli District on the night of 07.03.2018 while checking vehicles with his team and removed the vehicle key. The rider, Thiru. Raja of Suramangalam, Thanjavur District was proceeding towards Tiruchirappalli without wearing a helmet. The Inspector returned the key to Thiru. Raja as he stated he would co-operate in the vehicle check up, but he rode away with his wife when the constables least expected it. The Inspector chased Thiru. Raja in another two wheeler and intercepted him near BHEL, Ganesa Roundtana. Thiru. Raja lost control and fell down along with his wife Tmt. Usha in the pillion and they were injured. Both were taken by an ambulance to Thuvakudi Government Hospital for treatment, but Doctors there, said Tmt. Usha had died. Thiru.Raja was treated as an out-patient.

Learning about the incident, about 2,000 persons indulged in a road roko on the Tiruchirappalli - Thanjavur National Highway, demanding action against the traffic inspector. Despite holding talks and requesting them to disperse, the protestors indulged in stone pelting, damaging 44 Government buses, 6 police vehicles and a vehicle of the Revenue Department. Eleven Constables, including a Woman Police Constable were injured. As a last resort, Police used minimum force after issuing warning, dispersed them and restored normal traffic.

On a complaint from Thiru. Raja, husband of Tmt. Usha, a case was registered in the BHEL police station under sections. 304(2) and 336 IPC in connection with Tmt. Usha's death. Four cases were registered in connection with causing damage to public property in stone pelting and 21 persons were arrested and sent to judicial custody.

Tmt. Usha's body was handed over to her relatives after a post-mortem on 08.03.2018.

I conveyed my deep sense of condolence and sympathy to the family of Tmt. Usha and directed, taking into account the condition of Tmt. Usha's family, disbursal of Rs.7 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief fund.

Thiruverumbur traffic inspector Kamarajar was arrested immediately in this connection and was put into jail. He has also been suspended. A criminal investigation has also been ordered. I wish to inform the Hon'ble member through this House, that appropriate action will be taken on the basis of the results of the investigation.

Chief Minister's clarification on fire incident in Reserve Forest

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 19.03.2018 on the fire episode in the Kottakudi Reserve Forest (Kurangani area), Theni Forest Range (*English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For uplifting the standard of living of Mudhuvakudi tribes, under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project, by forming an Eco Development Committee and promoting community-based eco tourism, a hill climbing track was laid to a length of 11.4 km with a width of 7 to 10 feet in 2014-2015. This track is in Kottakudi reserve forest in Bodi range. Starting in Kurangani, it goes up to Top Station on the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border. Tribes, well conversant with this part of the forest, are appointed as members of the Eco Development Committee and they station themselves at the mid point of the track and in the Top Station parts and help tourists visiting the area.

Tourists are charged Rs.200/- per head by way of entry pass to go to Top Station from Kurangani or to come to Kurangani from Kerala side through Top Station. This amount is credited in the Eco Development Committee's account and used for the welfare of Mudhuvakudi tribes.

On 10.03.2018, a team of 12 persons, belonging to Erode and Tiruppur came to

Kurangani. On the same day, they got 12 entry passes to go to Top Station from Kurangani. Instead of going to its destination, this team went to a private tea garden at Kozhukkumalai, 7.1 km from Kurangani via Kottakudi reserve forest through an unapproved track for mountain climbing. Only workers in that private tea garden and villagers residing in that area, are authorized to use this track. This team stayed at the private tea garden overnight. Their entry pass was valid only for 10.03.2018. It expired the same night. There is no permission to stay overnight in these areas for such teams. On 11.03.2018, this team was proceeding to Kurangani via Kottakudi reserve forest through the unapproved track for mountain climbing.

Likewise, another team of 27 from Chennai, reached Kurangani on 10.03.2018 through the Chennai Trekking Club. Without getting any prior permission from the Forest Department staff, this team went to the Kozhukkumalai private tea garden via Kottakudi reserve forest through the unapproved track and stayed there overnight. The Theni District Collector has informed that this private tea garden has not obtained any permission to function as a Rest House. Of the 27 members in this team, 3 had gone to Kerala. The remaining 24 persons started mountain climbing via Kottakudi reserve forest through the unapproved track on 11.03.2018.

These two teams did not obtain any permission on 11.03.2018 to go to Kurangani from Kozhukkumalai. As they were proceeding, they were caught in a forest fire that broke out unexpectedly on that day.

There was no fire when these two teams were going to the Kozhukkumalai private tea garden from Kurangani on 10.03.2018. On the basis of field realities and as per the report of the Survey of India report, the last fire episode that took place in Kottakudi reserve forest was on 15.02.2018. The Forest Department extinguished this fire. If the fire had not been put out, the Survey of India would have issued alerts continuously. For the last many days, no fire alert in these areas, has been received from this body.

Field staff of the Forest Department came to know of the fire around 2.30 p.m. on 11.03.2018. Thiru. Muthupandi, Forest Watcher and three members of the Eco Development Committee rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire. Only after they reached the place around 5 p.m., it came to be known that the trekking team had been caught in the fire. Those caught in the fire, also, informed the 108-Ambulance Control Centre and their own relatives.

The Theni District Collector came to know of the forest fire while he was at a function for spreading fire awareness at Sanniyasipuram in Anaikaraipatti area of Bodi Taluk. Thiru. Mahendran, Assistant Conservator of Forest was also present at that event. The District Collector directed Thiru. Mahendran to rush to the place of fire accident with his Department's field workers. With his team of workers, Thiru. Mahendran reached the place around 6.30 p.m.

On receipt of the information about the fire accident, I ordered officers to rescue safely all those caught in the fire. On my request, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Forest Minister, Higher Officers of the Forest Department, the District Collector, the Superintendent of Police and the District Forest Officer speedily reached

Kurangani and took up rescue operations on a war footing.

Fire tenders and ambulance vehicles were engaged to rescue those stranded in the hill areas. To take up rescue works on a war footing, personnel from the Departments of Fire Service, Forest, Revenue and Police in the neighbouring Districts were dispatched to the place of occurrence, with needed accessories. The Tamil Nadu Government sought helicopters from the Central Defence Ministry for speedy rescue operations. Hon'ble Amma's Government carried on the rescue works on a war footing , all through the night of 11.03.2018.

On my orders, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Principal Secretary to the Department of Environment and Forest, Principal Secretary to the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare and Higher Officials of the Government rushed to Kurangani on 12.03.2018 and supervised the rescue operations. I too went to Madurai and consoled the victims of the fire. I directed the District Administration and the Medical Department to provide the best of treatment to the victims of the forest fire, admitted to hospital.

Of the 36 mountaineers, 10 were rescued without injuries, 17 sustained severe burns and 9 persons died on the spot. The dead bodies were air-lifted through the Defence Department's helicopters on 12.03.2018. The injured were given first aid at the primary health centre at Kurangani and were later sent to the different Government hospitals at Theni. For the severely affected, treatment was given at the Government hospital and in private hospitals in Madurai. Of those admitted to the hospital, one Nisha died on 12.03.2018. I conveyed my sense of deep condolence and sympathy to the bereaved families of the 10 persons who had died.

Also, I directed that an enquiry be instituted in connection with the forest fire incident and that action should be taken as per law against those who took these persons for trekking without getting the necessary permission from the Forest Department.

I have also directed the disbursal of Rs. 4 lakh each to the 10 bereaved families from the State Disaster Relief Fund, Rs.1 lakh each to the severely injured and Rs.50,000/- each to those with minor injuries from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Despite the best of treatment, Divya, wife of Thiru. Vipin, Divya, w/o Thiru. Vivek, Devi, d/o Thiru. Palanisamy, Anuvidya d/o of Thiru. Muthumalai, Kannan s/o Thiru. Giri, Sathyakala, w/o Thiru.Saravanan and Thiru. Sathishkumar, s/o Thiru. Ramaswamy died due to the extensive burns they had sustained. Their families too will be given a relief of Rs.4 lakh each from the State Disaster Relief fund.

The fire spread very fast in the accident area as a major part of it was covered with lemon grass which has oil content. When the fire broke out, the team was taking rest after lunch.

Preliminary inquiry by the Forest Department has revealed that Forester Thiru. Jayasingh was aware of the 12 member team taking a different unauthorized route to Kozhukkumalai though it had the entry pass for trekking between Kurangani and Top Station. In the inquiry, the Forester has confessed and has given a confessional statement. Hence he has been placed under suspension on 12.03.2018 itself.

On 12.03.2018, a case (Forest Crime No.13/2018, Bodi Forest Range) was registered against Thiru. Ranjitkumar, s/o Thiru. Ganesan of Mundhal area, Bodi Taluk, under Sec. 21(d) of Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882, for taking 12 persons into reserve forest areas without permission. The Police Department too, is proceeding legally against the Chennai Trekking Club and the Tour de India establishment in Erode for contravention of many rules.

Thiru. Atulya Misra I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, has been appointed the Inquiry Officer to go into this fire accident, into the deficiencies found in the companies that arrange trekking tours and the ones caused by the Forest Department Officials, to review grant of permission for mountaineering and to recommend steps to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. I wish to inform this House that the Tamil Nadu Government has directed him to submit his report in two months.

April 29: Pavendar Bharathidasan Birth Anniversary

A New World

Come, let us completely uproot
This world of wicked wars
and create another world anew.

Let us spread in all directions
The creed of public ownership

And hold it sacred and dear as life.

Let us soak our hearts in a flood of love
And avoid the cruel injustice
Of possessiveness.

Let us set our fervid hearts on fire
And laugh at men who crave
For private ownership.

Let us go hungry when Nature fails;
But when she is bounteous
Let us all share and eat.

From Select Poems of Bharathidasan
Translated by M.L. Thangappa

Chief Minister inaugurates five Centres of Excellence

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on behalf of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 13.03.2018, the Centre of Excellence of World Standards, set up by the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation at SIDCO complex in Thirumullaivoyal in Tiruvallur District, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.29 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open similar Centres of Excellence buildings, one each at Thirumudivakkam, Karuppur, Vazhavandan Kottai and Kappalur, totally costing Rs. 5.63 crore.

The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma at the Assembly on 24.07.2014 made a statement under Legislature Rule 110 that Centres of Excellence having facilities of International standard would be provided in the women's industrial parks in Thirumullaivoyal - Tiruvallur District, Thirumudivakkam – Kancheepuram District, Karuppur - Salem District, Vazhavandan Kottai - Tiruchirappalli District, and Kappalur - Madurai District. These Centres of Excellence would be set up by the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation.

The purpose of these centre would be to improve the competitive skills among the women entrepreneurs, to develop technology, industrial skills, and provide marketing assistance to the entrepreneurs. These centres would have common exhibition, common sales and marketing centres, seminar hall, training centre, administrative building, bank, crèche, and medical centre.

As per the Hon'ble Amma announcement, the two-storied Centre of Excellence building at the women's industrial park at Thirumullaivoyal SIDCO complex, was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

from the Secretariat through video conferencing. The building has an area of 11,834 sq.ft. in the ground floor and 8,552 sq.ft. in the first floor, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.29 crore.

The Centre of Excellence buildings at women's industrial park at the SIDCO Complex in Thirumudivakkam in Kancheepuram District, costing Rs.2.27 crore, in the women's industrial park in Karuppur SIDCO Complex in Salem, costing Rs.1.12 crore, in the women's industrial park in Vazhavandan Kottai SIDCO Complex in Tiruchirapalli District, costing Rs.1.12 crore, and in the women's industrial park at Kappalur SIDCO Complex in Madurai District costing Rs.1.12 crore were also declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami. These 5 Centre of Excellence buildings, all together cost Rs.7.92 crore.

Allowance for NEET examinees taking test in other States

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 04.05.2018 (*English Translation*).

I come to know through the media and newspapers that some students of Tamil Nadu have been allotted examination centres in other States for the forthcoming NEET examination and that they are put to difficulty due to this.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that every student who is studying in schools in Tamil Nadu and who has been allotted centres in other States for writing NEET, will be given second class train fare or bus fare (not exceeding the second class train fare) and Rs. 1,000/- each for other expenditure. The train / bus fare will be given to one attendant accompanying the student also. The students can get the train/bus fare and Rs.1,000/- from the District Chief Educational Officer in advance or after the examination by submitting the necessary documents. The students who received the fare and Rs.1,000/- in advance, should submit the necessary receipts to the District Chief Educational Officer after the examination.

The train/bus fare and the money will be distributed to students based on the copy of the hall ticket for the examination and school identity card. If the students find any difficulty in availing themselves of this assistance they can contact the District Educational Officer concerned, or the toll free number 14417 attached to the School Education Department/ or counselling centre and get necessary assistance, the statement added.

Computer tablets for TB prevention staff

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on 24.03.2018, inaugurated distribution of computer tablets to Senior TB Prevention Supervisors and Senior Supervisors of the TB Research Laboratory in connection with World TB Day.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also distributed Rs. 500/- each as nutritional assistance to patients suffering from TB and inaugurated 35 nakshatra centres and flagged off two mobile vans, fitted with modern gadgets to diagnose TB from early symptoms. The 35 star centres have been set up by the Greater Chennai Corporation in association with the REACH, and National Institute for Research in TB.

The German Physician and Scientist, Dr.Robert Koch, discovered the bacillus that causes Tuberculosis on March 24, 1882 and announced it to the world. Every year, March 24 is being observed as the World TB Day since 1982, on completion of the centenary of the discovery of the disease.

The World Health Organization has targeted the year 2030 for complete eradication of Tuberculosis and India, on its part, fixed 2025 for TB-free India and steps are being taken in that direction.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 24.03.2018 inaugurated distribution of computer tablets to 1,412 senior TB Treatment supervisors and senior supervisors of the TB Research laboratory.

Details regarding TB patients, treatment being given to them, and medicines that are given to them are loaded in these tablets

through ‘NIKSHAY’, which will be useful in monitoring the TB patients.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister on the occasion also inaugurated distribution of Rs.500/- each per month to TB patients, as announced by the Central Government in its 2018-2019 Budget. The amount will be credited directly in the bank account of the TB patients from April this year.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister declared open 35 Nakshatra Centres in the Greater Chennai Corporation area, set up by the Chennai Corporation in co-ordination with a non-Governmental organization REACH. These centres will monitor the treatment of patients, who are undergoing treatment in private hospitals.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister on the occasion flagged off two vans, fitted with sophisticated equipment CBNAAT to diagnose TB. These vans are given to the Tamil Nadu TB unit by the Central TB wing.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami said, at the outset : “I welcome the Hon’ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Secretary of the Health Department, and Dr. Nalini Krishnan, Ms.Ramya, Dr.Radha, and Dr.Rajamahendran, doctors from private medical institutions, Government staff, and friends from the print and visual media’’.

Every year March 24 is being observed as the World TB Day. This year‘s slogan for the Day is – ‘Wanted Leaders for TB free world’. In this connection two vans fitted with sophisticated equipment have been flagged off. When these vans visit various places, people afflicted with the disease can find out the intensity of the disease, and take proper treatment. For villagers who cannot afford to purchase proper medicines for the treatment of the disease, Rs.1,000/- per month is being given though farmers’ security card for purchase of medicines’’ .

The Central Government in its 2018-2019 Budget announced that Rs.500/- will be given per month to TB-affected patients and that amount also will be credited in the bank accounts of the patients directly by the State Government.

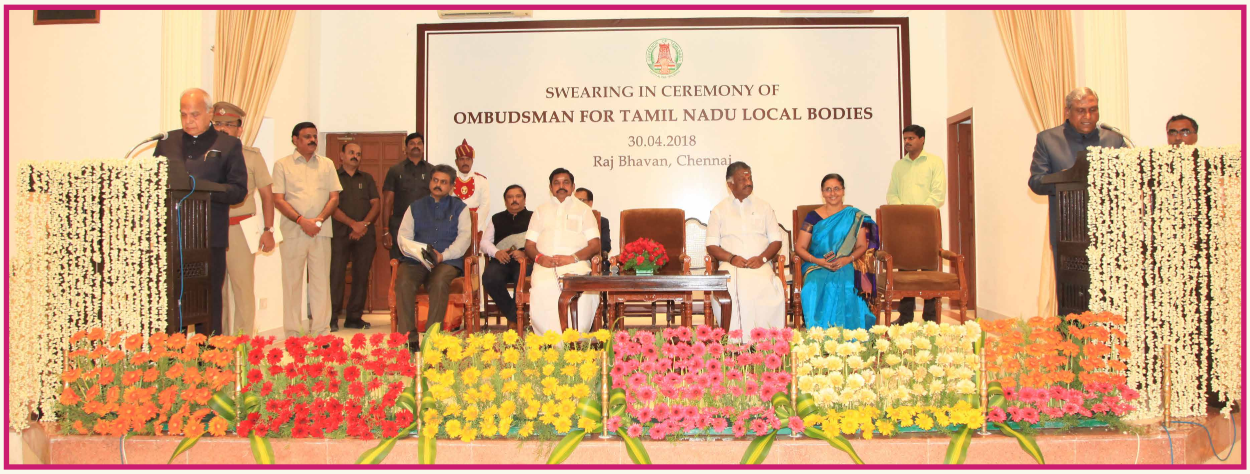
While the WHO targeted to create TB-free world by 2030, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced that steps would be taken to achieve TB-free India by 2025. The Tamil Nadu Government would give the necessary co-operation in achieving the goal. I heartily welcome the members of the REACH foundation and those belonging to private medical institutions who participated in the function.

TB is a curable disease and can be cured completely if proper medicines are taken. So not only the Government, private medical institutions also are giving free treatment to patients. I appreciate their service and thank them for the service.

The Tamil Nadu Government is taking various steps to make people lead a disease-free and healthy life. However wealth a man possess, he can live peacefully and happily, only if he has a healthy life. The State Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Amma, is taking necessary steps through the Health Department. I thank those who gave me this opportunity to flag off the vans.

Nandri and Vanakkam.

News in Picture



Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office at the Raj Bhavan on 30.04.2018 to Dr. S. Iyer I.A.S. (Retd.) as Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S. and other High Officials participated in the function.

Permanent jobs for two transgenders

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami presented at the Secretariat on 21.03.2018, appointment orders for Lab Technician Grade – II and Physiotherapist Grade-II posts to transgenders S. Neaya and M.P. Selvi Santhosham respectively.

For the welfare of transgenders, the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like distribution of monthly pension of Rs.1,000/- each to destitute transgenders above 40 years of age, setting up of a "Transgender Welfare Board" to help them get the benefits of Government's welfare schemes and issuing of a Government order, reserving a percentage of Government jobs for them.

S. Neaya and M.P. Selvi Santhosham, ward supervisors in the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital requested the Government to appoint them in regular posts. Neaya is a Post Graduate in Microbiology and Selvi Santhosham, a Diploma Holder in Physiotherapy. Though highly qualified, they have to be considered as a special case as they have crossed the age limit and are appointed to regular posts with scales of pay in hospitals as lab technician grade II and physiotherapist grade II.

Multi-purpose disaster shelters opened; 15 more certificates through e-centres

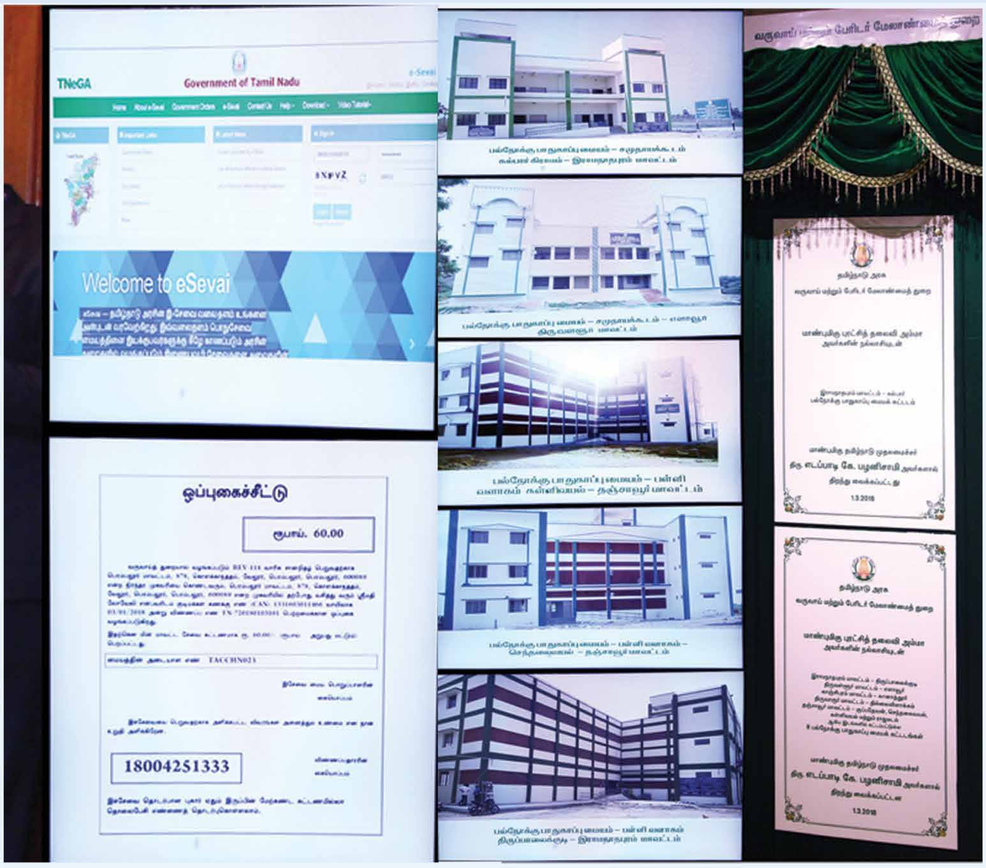
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 01.03.2018, a multi-purpose disaster shelter of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, constructed at a cost of Rs.2,75,80,000/- at Kalpar in Ramanathapuram District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 8 more multi-purpose disaster shelters, set up across the State at a cost of Rs.21,92,74,000/-, inaugurated a scheme to make available to people 15 types of certificates through e-service centres under the e-governance programme and the Amma Mobile Application Service.

The Department of Revenue acts as a bridge between the Government and people as it takes the welfare schemes of the former to the latter. For the upgradation of such a Department, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many constructive schemes like creation of new Revenue Taluks, construction of own buildings with all facilities for its offices and construction of multi-purpose disaster shelters for the stay of affected coastal District people during times of disasters.

The Kalpar shelter was constructed in Ramanathapuram District, through the PWD, with world bank assistance under the coastal disaster risk reduction project. Other shelters declared open are located at Thirupalaikudi in Ramanathapuram District, Elavur (Tiruvallur District), Kanathur (Kancheepuram), Thillaivilagam (Tiruvarur) and Kuppathevan, Senthalaivayal, Kallivayal and Rajamadam in Thanjavur District.

At present, the Department distributes 5 types of certificates to people through the



e-service centres –community, income, nativity, first generation graduate and deserted woman. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution of 15 more certificates through e-service centres. These are 1) agricultural income, 2) small and micro farmer, 3) inter-caste marriage, 4) widow, 5) unemployment, 6) family migration, 7) Certificate for loss of education record due to disaster, 8) no male child, 9) un-married status, 10) heir, 11) nativity, 12) solvency, 13) pawn brokers licence, 14) money lenders licence and 15) OBC (other backward classes).

To get the above 15 services, people should apply in the nearby e-service centre. A receipt will be issued with the application number. This will be passed on as SMS to their mobile phone. To know the status of the application, the application number can be SMSed to the number 155250 or by uploading the number in the internet. As soon as the certificate is ready, an SMS will be sent to the applicant with Net address. On receipt of this message, the applicant can download the certificate from the Net in the house itself or get it through the nearby e-service centre.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the Amma Mobile App (Access and Manage through Mobile from Anywhere e-Service of Land Records) for people to get easily land documents through the mobile phone. This Application can be downloaded free of cost by people in their android phones. By installing it, they can get information on things like A-Register, action taken on applications for effecting changes in Chitta and Patta and about the status of land concerned, whether it is Government or private. This application will function in android operating system above 4.1 editions.

Buildings worth Rs.48.08 crore opened

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 13.03.2018, an integrated office building at a cost of Rs.38.92 crore at the Veterinary Multi-Purpose Hospital in Saidapet, Chennai for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Also declared open were the office building for Deputy Registrar, Dairy Development, ultra-modern milk parlours of Aavin, buildings of the Fisheries Department (all Rs.9.16 crore). The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for an integrated building of the Animal Husbandry Department, proposed to come up at a cost of Rs.1.51 crore.

For the good maintenance of live stock that play an important role in the development of rural economy and in improving the standard of living of Villagers, the Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing schemes like providing quality treatment to them and encouraging green fodder production. For achieving wholesome integrated development in fisheries, it has schemes like increasing fish production, protecting fisheries and ensuring long- standing fertile fish catching.

In tune with such initiatives, the integrated office complex for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries has been constructed and declared open. The Departments of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, the Tamil Nadu Livestock Development Agency, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation, the Tamil Nadu Fishermen Co-operative Federation and the Coastal Aquaculture Authority will function from this complex. This will help farmers, fishermen and the general public get redressal of their grievances from under one roof.

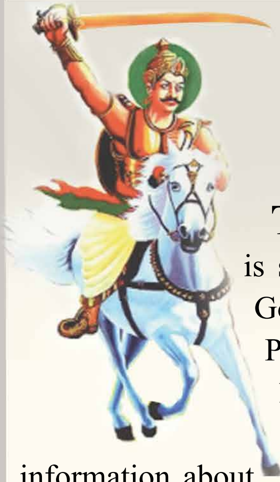
Other buildings declared open were: an office building for the Deputy Registrar (Dairy Development) at the Madurai Dairy Farm complex at a cost of Rs.70 lakh, ultra modern milk parlours with facilities like air-conditioned dining halls, children's park, playground, fountain and vehicle parking lots at Manamadurai, Sivagangai District

at a cost of Rs. 1.25 crore, near Surampatti 4-roads junction, Erode District at a cost of Rs.75 lakh and at Pachapalayam new dairy farm complex in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs.70 lakh (Dairy Development Department); fish seed rearing centre at Agarapettai Village, at a cost of Rs.1.10 crore, a fish feed factory at Achampatti Village at a cost of Rs.1.35 crore (both in Thanjavur District) and a fish landing floor at Jambavanodai fishermen Village at a cost of Rs.1.13 crore and a fish seed production centre at Nallikottai at a cost of Rs.2.18 crore (both in Tiruvarur District) (Fisheries Department). Totally, buildings of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, worth Rs.48.08 crore were declared open.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for an integrated building at Kancheepuram for the offices of the Regional Joint Director and Assistant Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry to be constructed at an estimate of Rs.1.51 crore. ■

16th April : Veeran Sundaralingam Birth Anniversary

Kattabomman's daring army general



Thalapathi Sundaralingam is said to have been born in Govarnagiri village near Panchalankurichi between 1775 and 1789 to Mutharuli and Kaladi. Available information about Sundaralingam suggests that he was very good at sports and was known for his bravery.

Veerapandiya Kattabomman, who was then the ruler of Panchalankurichi, was impressed by the valour and loyalty of Sundaralingam, and made him the general of his army. That was why he was called Thalapathi Sundaralingam.

When many kings in those days were subservient to the British East India Company and paid taxes to it, Veerapandiya Kattabomman opposed it and waged a war against the British. Sundaralingam was Kattabomman's army general in this fight.

In the year 1799, the British forces surrounded the Panchalankurichi Fort without any notice. Sundaralingam did not back off, knowing fully the possible outcome of the situation.

Sundaralingam had a devious plan to put an end to the British plan of destroying the Panchalankurichi Fort. That night Sundaralingam's fiance Vadivu was driving her herd of goats near the ammunition dump of British Army. Hidden among the goats was Sundaralingam, covered in a blanket of wool.

When they approached the ammunition dump, Sundaralingam was spotted by a British soldier, who raised an alarm. Sundaralingam did not waste a minute in worrying about his life. He snatched the fire torch from his fiance's hands and jumped into the dump. Vadivu also followed Sundaralingam and jumped into the ammunition dump. They together blew up the ammunition dump. The thunderous explosions were heard miles across the area sending the British Army running for cover.

For this courageous act, Sundaralingam was given honoured with the name Veeran and is known as Veeran Sundaralingam. ■

MoU with Australian trade panel to give a fillip to fisheries in State

In the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission at the Secretariat in Chennai on 13.03.2018 for development of fisheries and aquaculture in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has a long coastline of 1,076 km, with about 9.94 lakh fishermen in 13 Coastal Districts dependent on fishing and fisheries-based industries for their livelihood. The Tamil Nadu Government, which follows the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been taking various steps to develop fisheries in the State to the International standard on par with developed Countries and to improve the livelihood of the fishing community.

With this motive, the Tamil Nadu Government in co-operation with Australian Trade and the Investment Commission will take integrated measures for improving fish production, fishing resources, aquaculture, fish development and fish exports from Tamil Nadu, through sustainable norms.

These integrated measures will enable Tamil Nadu and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission to focus on creating awareness of best practices in the fishing sector and in aquaculture management and to work on key areas such as policy, research, equipment, technology, services and skills

for the development of the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission will also help Tamil Nadu in marketing the sea food products globally, provide consultancy services, transfer best practices and technology across the fishing sector, and exchange data and information for sustainable fish development.

The integrated measures will also provide new information, education and training for improving the skill development of fishermen in villages and intellectual exchange of information between Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University and the Australian Universities. In addition, awareness will be created through media and workshops which will create a new chapter in the development of Fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu.

The MoU was signed by Principal Secretary for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Dr.K.Gopal I.A.S., on behalf of Tamil Nadu and the Commissioner of Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Thiru. Munish Sharma on behalf of Australia.

NEWS IN PICTURE

In connection with the 128th Birth Anniversary of Pavendar Bharathidasan, Hon'ble Ministers, Government Officials and Members of Parliament paid floral tributes, on behalf of the Government, to the portrait placed near the statue at the Chennai Marina Kamarajar Salai on 29.04.2018. Hon'ble Ministers who participated were Thiruvalargal D.Jayakumar (Fisheries & Personnel, Administrative Reforms), Kadambur Raju (Information and Publicity), P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), K. Pandiarajan (Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Archaeology), MPs T.G. Venkatesh Babu, S.R. Vijayakumar, R. Venkatesan I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Dr. P. Shankar I.A.S., Director, Department of Information and Public Relations, OL. Ravindran, Additional Director (Public Relations) and other High Officials.

Chief Minister's assurance on Thervoy Kandigai reservoir, AIIMS Hospital for Tamil Nadu

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami** clarifications in the Assembly on 22.03.2018 on the queries raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Thiru. Durai Murugan on Kannankottai-Thervoy Kandigai reservoir scheme and AIIMS hospital in Tamil Nadu (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

The view expressed by the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not correct. Because we continue to exert pressure. On the last occasion too, both I and brother Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam went to Andhra Pradesh, met the State Chief Minister Thiru. Chandrababu Naidu and raised the matter. Their averment is that as the State (Andhra) has been bifurcated, they can give only 2.5 tmc ft. of water out of the (composite Andhra Pradesh share of) 5 tmc ft. of water. They direct us to go to Telangana and get the balance of 2.5 tmc ft. of water. If we talk tough, they pass on the responsibility to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and refuse to let water to us. Even now, if we have received this quantum of water, it is due to the constant pressure exerted through letters written by our Secretary, Chief Secretary and myself continuously. Roughly, we have received more than 2 tmc ft. of water. Now, we have about 4.5 tmc ft. of water.

Also, Amma's Government has constructed a reservoir at Kannankottai Thervoy Kandigai and created a facility to store one tmc ft. of water for supply of drinking water to people in Chennai. That project was started on an estimate of about Rs.330 crore. Some have gone to court in the matter of land acquisition. As the matter has gone to court, the project could not be completed. I wish to inform the Hon'ble member through you that Amma's Government would take steps to initiate negotiations, acquire land, complete the project within 4 or 5 months and provide protected water to the people of

Chennai City. So, it is Amma's Government that has done this; not your Government. I inform the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, through you, that this new reservoir, too, is being constructed by Amma's Government.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

The foundation for the Rs.330 crore Kannankottai - Thervoy Kandigai reservoir scheme was laid on 11.09.2013 and work was commenced. The scheme envisages storing of one tmc ft. of water. While land acquisition for the project was on, some land owners refused to give their lands and went to Court. The project could not be completed as the matter went to Court. Nearly 85 per cent of the work has been completed. Once again I wish to inform the Hon'ble Member through you that as we have got a favourable verdict from the Court now, we will compensate the farmers, complete the remaining project works, store one tmc ft. of water and supply protected drinking water to the people of Chennai Metro.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition gave a clarification that a letter was given to the Prime Minister. As far as we are concerned, we have to get the AIIMS Hospital somehow. That is our aim. Though 5 sites were selected, committee members who visited those sites pointed out one deficiency or the other in each place. They rejected the Erode site on the ground that a road cuts across in the middle; for Madurai, Indian Oil Corporation's pipeline is cited for rejecting the site. Impelled by a feeling that Tamil Nadu may be deprived of this one-time opportunity of getting the hospital, by the committee's rejection of every site on some ground, a site has been shown where 300 acres of land is in one block; but they are saying they are examining it.

But we continue to press the Central Government to select one of the 5 sites shown and initiate action to locate the AIIMS Hospital in Tamil Nadu. Wherever, it is located in Tamil Nadu, it will be useful to us. The AIIMS Hospital due to us should come to us. That is our aim. We will certainly get it. Hence, the deputy leader of the opposition need not entertain doubt on this score.

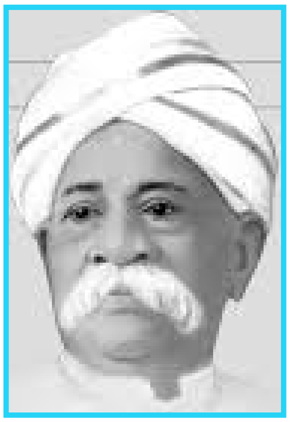
27th April: Sir Pitty Thiyagarayar Birth Anniversary

The 'Sir' who lived simply

One day, Sir Pitti was about to start for a function. At that time he found that his shirt was torn a little. Without any hesitation he asked for a needle and some thread. Those who had come to take him to the venue and those who were to go with him, asked him to take the time to wear another shirt. But without showing any irritation, Sir. Pitti quickly stitched the place where the shirt was torn and wore it.

Though Sir.Pitti belonged to a rich family and hosted the best lunches for his friends, he used to eat lightly. He found pleasure in simple living. He conducted marriages for poor families from his own expenses. He generously helped poor families that were in distress.

From the book Velludai Vendhar Thiyagarayar



Tamil Nadu 'putting pressure on Centre to set up Cauvery Management Board'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, replies to a question raised by the DMK Member Thiru.K.Pichandi in the Legislative Assembly on 21.03.2018 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

One should think whether this story reflect on you or on us? I am saying this because you enjoyed power at the centre for five years as a partner of the BJP. That is why I feel you have so much knowledge of this issue. As far as we are concerned, we had not set up any coalition Government nor had we extended support to them. We have been putting forth Tamil Nadu's stand in a proper way. We are arguing Tamil Nadu's case. Demanding the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board, we have not allowed Parliament to function from the commencement of this session. This has happened for the first time in Tamil Nadu's history.

For protecting Tamil Nadu's fundamental right and for the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee within six weeks as stipulated by the Supreme Court, we continue to pressure the Centre in Parliament and have been stalling its functioning. You should ponder to what extent we have gone. I wish to record at this juncture that Amma's Government will remain one that reflects the views of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

(To the opposition) Don't try to draw a parallel between totally unconnected things. We know you well. You are experienced and we know you are capable of making a point like inserting a needle in a

plantain fruit. They are bringing it for their Andhra issue. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister had already explained it yesterday. They formed an alliance and fought. The Telugu Desam party formed an alliance with the BJP, won the Election and shared power in the Central Cabinet. They are bringing a no confidence motion as their demand has not been honoured. Our case is different. We urge that the Cauvery Management Board should be set up. There is no supportive voice for it. They voice their grievance but they are not raising their voice for our issue. Hence, our MPs continue to raise their voice over the issue and to pressurise the Government. I wish to inform the Deputy Leader of Opposition through you, that we are pressuring the Government to the extent of disrupting Parliament.

14th April : Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Birth Anniversary

Patriotism calls for humanism

Baba Sahab Bhimrao Ambedkar was a great socialist, educationist, and philosopher. He had full respect for his society and Country. Baba Sahab used to give the definition of the nation as – "Words like society and nation, though they are not difficult, they definitely have different meanings. 'Nation' is a word, but it consists of many groups of people.

Baba Sahab expresses his views on the feeling of nationalism as follows. Politics is not a matter of time, because unity cannot be achieved by adding any outside things. Without social unity, it is difficult to achieve political unity and even if we achieve it, then this will be like that seasonal plant, which is uprooted from the ground by a small gust of wind.

Giving the definition of patriotism, Baba Sahab has said that for nationalism, it is necessary to have cultural and geographical unity. Baba Sahab has defined patriotism as, "In India, those people are considered patriots and nationalists who with their open eyes see their fellow human living a life not fit for human beings, but whose humanity does not revolt against this. He knows that men and women are being deprived of their basic human rights without any fault, but still his feeling of citizenship does not awaken and help them. He sees that for many people the doors to public employment have been closed, but still his feeling of justice and goodness does not awaken. He sees hundreds of incidents of inhuman behaviour, which cause pain to human beings and the society, but these evils do not make him discontented and dissatisfied. I am happy that I do not have any connection with this type of patriots. There is only one type of true patriots and it wants more and more power to their class".

The Architect of Modern India: Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

by Mahesh Ambedkar

Building works in temples

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat on 20.04.2018 a Rs.70 lakh wedding hall in the Arulmigu Choleeswaraswamy Temple at Arcot Kuppam, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District, four classrooms, constructed at a cost of Rs.54.50 lakh in the Dewaswom Higher Secondary School at Mandaikadu and an Annadhana hall and a vahana mandapam in Arulmigu Krishnaswami temple, Thovalai at a cost of Rs.42.60 lakh (both in Kanniyakumari District).

Temples are the repositories of Tamil culture, the living source of spirituality and also reflect great artistry. The Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is keen to protect and maintain the assets of these temples, ensure un-hindered performance of daily poojas and to execute other works like providing needed facilities to devotees.

The wedding hall with ground and first floors has come up in an area of 5,700 sq.feet in the Arulmigu Choleeswaraswamy temple and can accommodate 200 persons. The four class rooms in the Devaswom Higher Secondary School occupy 2,641 sq.ft. and can accommodate 175 students. The Annadhana hall at a cost of Rs.30 lakh in Arulmigu Krishnaswamy temple is built on 1,706 sq.ft. and is designed for 50 devotees to partake meals. The vahana mandapam at a cost of Rs.12.60 lakh in the temple is built on 570 sq. ft. area. Totally, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments buildings worth Rs.1,67,10,000/- were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. ■

Chief Minister launches health scheme to diagnose non-infectious diseases

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami launched at the Secretariat on 13.04.2018, a pioneering scheme – "Population and Diagnosis of community-based non-infectious diseases"- in the Districts of Perambalur, Pudukkottai and Krishnagiri in connection with 'World Health Day'. He presented medical test kits that contained items including electronic BP apparatus and Glucometer to 7 health volunteers for testing the blood pressure and sugar levels of people on a house-to-house basis.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also released the evaluation report jointly prepared by the National Health Mission and Chennai IIT on the performance of the Universal Health Coverage scheme, implemented as a pilot project in Tamil Nadu as also the book Health Codex, prepared by the institute of community medicine of the Madras Medical College.

Every year, April 7 is observed as World Health Day. The theme for this year's World Health Day is "Universal Health Coverage Everyone Everywhere". At present, non-infectious diseases have emerged as the main factor for mortality. Taking this into account, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing a scheme in all Districts for the prevention, control and treatment of non infectious diseases. Tamil Nadu is the only state to implement this scheme in a big way. It is implemented in 2,516 Government Medical Institutions in 32 Districts including Primary Health Centres, Urban Primary Health Centres, Government Hospitals, Government Medical College and Hospitals and Municipal Hospitals.

To achieve this, not only the infrastructure of Government Hospitals is strengthened but ultra modern equipment like cath lab., linear accelerator, CT scan and MRI scan are provided. Besides, the facility to undergo high-end treatment in private hospitals has been provided under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme.

All patients aged 30 and above, coming to Government Medical Institutions are tested for blood pressure, diabetes, and cervical and breast cancer. Those testing positive for non-infectious diseases, are given treatment in Government Hospitals and in Private Hospitals recognized under the Chief Minister Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme. As a part of this scheme, a "Population and Diagnosis of Community based non-infectious diseases" is proposed to be implemented as a pilot project in the three Districts of Perambalur, Pudukkottai and Krishnagiri to test people at their residence itself for blood pressure and diabetes. Women health volunteers will visit the houses to do the tests. The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented to 7 women health volunteers test kits containing items like electronic BP apparatus, glucometer, patient ID card and recommendation slip to mark the inauguration of the pilot project.

Universal Health coverage is provided to all people in Tamil Nadu through 8,712 Auxiliary Health Centres, 2,223 Primary Health Centres, 310 Government Hospitals and 23 Government Medical College and Hospitals. Free diagnosis and treatment ensure economic security to patients who come to Government Hospitals.

Considering the importance of the Universal Health Coverage scheme, Tamil Nadu has already implemented it as a pilot project in 17 Primary Health Centres and 67 Auxiliary Health Centres in the Districts of Perambalur, Pudukkottai and Krishnagiri and 1.65 lakh people have got the services under this scheme.

The National Health Mission has jointly evaluated the performance of this pilot project with the Madras IIT. The evaluation report has confirmed that people have received health services in a larger scale. Now, this scheme has been extended to 39 health Districts. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide 12 types of services including mother-infant care, family welfare, diagnosis of infectious and non-infectious diseases, eye, ENT diseases, mental disorder and elders care.

The evaluation report as well as the Health Codex book, prepared for providing medical treatment at the primary health centre level was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr C. Vijayabaskar received them.

Ranking framework for 13 Universities

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the Secretariat on 24.04.2018, between Tamil Nadu State Higher Education Council and Indian Centre for Academic Ranking and Excellence Pvt. Ltd., (ICARE) for the latter to undertake, free of cost, the work of setting up State Universities ranking framework in respect of the 13 Universities functioning under the Department of Higher Education of the State Government.

Of the 13 Universities, 9 applied to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and 7 of them came in the first 100 places for the year 2018. They are, Anna, Bharathiar, Madras, Alagappa, Madurai Kamaraj, Bharathidasan and Periyar Universities. Besides, Annamalai University found a place in the ranks 100 to 150 and Manonmaniam Sundaranar in the ranks 151 to 200. This will enable the Universities to get funds and other concessions from the University Grants Commission, different sectors of the Central Government Department of Human Resources Development and from other financial agencies connected with education.

A private agency, ICARE has come forward to create the framework, at no cost in respect of the excellence and ranking of the State Universities. This will bring out the strength and weaknesses of the schools and Departments in each University. This will help the Universities to improve their ranking in the National Institutional Ranking Framework by improving their strong points and removing deficiencies.

Thiru. Sunil Paliwal I.A.S., Vice Chairman (in charge) of the Tamil Nadu State Higher Education Council and Dr. Karthik Sridhar, Vice President of Indian Centre for Academic Ranking and Excellence Pvt.Ltd., signed the memorandum of understanding on behalf of their respective organizations.

Own building for Taluk office opened at Madhavaram

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing on 13.04.2018, the Taluk office building, constructed at a cost of Rs.2.30 crore at Madhavaram, Tiruvallur District. Two multi-purpose disaster shelter buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.5,77,65,000/- in Ramanathapuram District and a Revenue Inspector camp office constructed at a cost of Rs.13.14 lakh at Tiruvottiyur were also declared open. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly created Jamunamarathur Revenue Taluk and the new Arani Revenue Division in Tiruvannamalai District.

The Department of Revenue and Disaster Management acts as a bridge between the Government and the people by taking the welfare programmes of the former to the latter in accordance with the principle, 'Government is for the people'. For the development of such a Department, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes like creation of new Revenue Taluks, construction of own buildings with all facilities for the Department and construction of staff quarters for the Personnel of the Department.

Making a statement in the Assembly on 15.05.2013 under Rule 110, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said that it was not enough if more revenue taluks were created; basic structural facilities needed for the Taluk Offices concerned should also be provided. Taking this into account, own building would be constructed for the Taluk Office at Madhavaram, she said.

The new office building at Madhavaram with ground and first floor, is built on 1,180 sq.metre area with all facilities which included a conference hall, computer room, a room for the Tahsildar, records room and toilets.

The two multi-purpose disaster shelter buildings have been constructed by the PWD at Mariyur and Kannigapuram in Ramanathapuram District under the Coastal Disaster Mitigation Scheme with World Bank assistance for the affected people to stay during times of disasters.

The new Jamunamarathur Revenue Taluk in Tiruvannamalai District with Kovilur Mathura Jamunamarathur as headquarters, has been created by streamlining the Taluks of Chengam, Kalasapakkam and Polur and the new Arani Revenue Division with Arani as headquarters, by streamlining the Tiruvannamalai and Cheyyar Divisions.

Chief Minister's clarification on sand quarrying and sale

Clarification of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 21.03.2018 on sand quarrying (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Hon'ble Leader of the Congress Legislature party mentioned the news, that sand quarries have not been opened yet. Some public interest litigation petitions were filed in the court and after prolonged hearings, judgment has been delivered only now. As the PILs were pending in court, sand quarrying was banned. After the receipt of the judgment, the Government has decided to take over the sale of sand and steps have been taken to open the quarries.

Tenders were floated a fortnight ago, stipulating certain stringent conditions to ensure that no mistake takes place. There were bids for some quarries and for the rest, no one came forward. Tenders are to be floated tomorrow once again. Rules have been made stringent to avert mistakes. Bids will be finalized soon, quarries will be opened and Government itself will run them. That is , there will be one contract for dredging the sand from the river/odai beds and bringing it to the Yard. At the place of dredging, CCTV cameras will be installed. For dredging and transporting the sand to the Yard, poclain, lorries and dipper vehicles should be used. The procedure to be adopted is prescribed in the contract itself. The transporting vehicle should have GPS equipment to enable the Government know that it makes the trip only to the Yard. At the Yard also CCTV cameras will be installed and sand will be supplied to those who have registered themselves online. Money transactions will be made online. In this way, the Government has taken necessary steps to open sand quarries, following the court's guidelines and tightening the procedures as per rules and regulations. I wish to inform the leader of the Congress Legislature Party, through you, that shortly Government will open many sand quarries to supply required quantum of sand to people without any hindrance.

Likewise, tenders have been floated for import of sand. For that also, certain rules and regulations have been framed. I wish to inform, contracts will be received online, finalized, sand imported from abroad and sale will be effected by Government itself.

Private sector's role, in this, will be up to the importing of the sand. Once it reaches Chennai or Tuticorin, Government will take over and effect the sale. There too, CCTV cameras will be installed. I wish to inform the member, through you, that bids have been invited from abroad also for the import of sand to ensure unhindered supply of sand to any number of applicants.

As there was illegal import of sand from abroad, earlier, it was stopped. The silicon content is more in the imported sand. Only after testing the imported sand, we are supplying it. We have to examine whether the imported sand is adulterated and whether it is suitable for construction work. I wish to inform this House that the Government permits the sale of such sand only after a positive report comes from those tests.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The Government has stated very categorically that no private party will be allowed to sell sand as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. A legal cover has also been given to it. So, whoever brings sand, it should be sold only through the Government. If they are given a free hand to sell sand, there will be indiscriminate exploitation of our rivers and odais and no one can control it. Hence, a decision has been taken that sale of sand should be only through Government. As a follow up of this, I wish to inform the member, through you, the Government has notified that sale of sand, whether it is from abroad or from other States, will be only through Government.

Food allowance up for mentally ill

Voluntary organizations are running homes for the mentally affected, with Government's financial assistance, in 31 Districts. Under the Rescue scheme, destitute, mentally affected persons roaming in the streets are admitted to these homes and given boarding, lodging, medical treatment and rehabilitated. Each Home accommodates 50 mentally ill persons and across the State, 1,550 persons are benefited.

At present, a boarding allowance of Rs.400/- per month is given to each of these beneficiaries. The Tamil Nadu Government is allotting Rs.74.40 lakh a year for this.

Taking into account the welfare of the mentally affected beneficiaries, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami has issued orders increasing the boarding allowance from Rs.400/- to Rs.650/- each from April 2018. On account of this hike, the Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.46.50 lakh.

Amma Wi-Fi zones come up at 50 places at Rs.8.5 crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat on 05.04.2018, the Information Technology Department's Amma Wi-Fi zones set up at the Labour statue on the Marina, Chennai, the Gandhipuram bus stand at Coimbatore, the Central bus stands at Salem and Tiruchirappalli and at the Mattuthavani M.G.R. bus stand at Madurai.

By way of redeeming the promise that free wireless internet facility (Wi-Fi) would be made available in Tamil Nadu at public places like big bus stands, commercial complexes and parks, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in a statement on 23.08.2016 stated that in the first phase, Amma Wi-Fi zones would be set up in 50 places like big bus stands and parks.

To implement Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's announcement, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, issued an order on 16.08.2017 for the setting up of Amma Wi-Fi zones through the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation in 50 places at a cost of Rs.8.50 crore.

Accordingly, in the first phase, the zones were set up at the above mentioned five places which the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated. At these zones, the Wi-Fi facility will be free of cost for 20 minutes for a person a day and thereafter there will be a fee of Rs.10/- an hour.

Chief Minister hands over cheques to fisherfolk hit by collision oil slick

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami handed over cheques at the Secretariat on 20.04.2018 to 21 fishermen from the Districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram as a beginning for the distribution of Rs.131 crore relief amount to 1,11,448 fisherfolk in these Districts whose livelihood was affected due to the crude oil spill in the sea off the Ennore coast in January last year when two cargo ships collided. The concerned shipping companies provided the relief amount.

An unfortunate collision between the cargo ship M.D.B.W. Maple and the oil tanker Dawn Kancheepuram' in the early hours of 28.01.2017 in the sea off Ennore Kamarajar port resulted in oil slick, affecting the coastline of the Districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram and the adjoining sea areas. The livelihood of fishermen, fisherwomen, fish traders and other workers connected with fishing was severely affected on account of the oil leakage.

By way of protecting the livelihood of fishermen families in these Districts, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami distributed an interim relief of Rs.15 crore on 06.03.2017 to the affected 30,000 fishermen families at the rate of Rs.5,000/- each.

To get adequate relief from the shipping companies, the Fisheries Department obtained petitions from the affected fisherfolk in these Districts and a consolidated report was presented. After several rounds of negotiations and as per the order of the Madras High Court, Rs. 141 crore was obtained from the shipping companies – Rs. 131 crore as relief amount and Rs.10 crore for repairworks – for 1,11,448 fisherfolk.

The affected fisherfolk were divided into 7 categories as per the work they engage in and the quantum of relief amount was fixed for each category. Accordingly, it was decided to give Rs.35,000/- each to owners of mechanized boats, Rs.20,000/- each to owners of Country boats fitted with engines, Rs.15,000/- each to owners of non-mechanized Country boats, Rs.12,000/- each to fishermen engaged in catching fish, Rs.10,000/- each to fisherwomen engaged in fishing subsidiary avocations, Rs.10,000/- each to fish traders and Rs.10,000/- each to those engaged in fishing related works.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the relief amount to 21 fishermen – 7 representatives from each of the three affected Districts – as a symbolic gesture for the distribution of the entire relief amount. ■

Toll free helpline, 14417 for guidance on school education

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat on 01.03.2018, a 24-hour educational guidance service centre that can be accessed through a toll free helpline – 14417 – the first of its kind in India

Set up by the Department of School Education, the Centre will offer information, clarifications and guidance to students and parents regarding education, employment opportunities and other information connected with the Departments of Education.

To help poor students to shine in education, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing many schemes like free education, distribution of free bus pass, bicycles, school uniforms, text books, laptops, 14 types articles inclusive of educational accessories, improving school infrastructure, filling up vacant teacher posts for un-hindered imparting of education to students and filling up of vacant non-teaching posts for implementing the scheme works of the Department of School Education.

It was announced in the demands for grants for School Education Department for 2017-2018, that a guidance centre that could be contacted through a toll free helpline, would be set up to offer information, clarifications and guidance to students and parents regarding education, employment opportunities and other information connected with Education Departments. Accordingly, the centre was set up and can be accessed through the toll free helpline 14417. ■

Assistance to film workers

The fifth meeting of the Film Workers Welfare Board was held at the Secretariat in Chennai on 04.05.2018, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru. Kadambur Raju.

After hearing the views of the members, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the meeting. The Hon'ble Minister in his address said that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during her tenure had conceived many schemes for the welfare of the workers of the film industry and implemented them successfully.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, who is following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is also implementing various welfare schemes for the improvement of workers associated with big and small screen.

Till date, the State Government through the Film Workers Welfare Board had sanctioned marriage assistance to 169 persons, spectacles expenses to 167 people, maternity assistance to 11 mothers, educational assistance to 1,104 girl and boy students, funeral expenses for natural death in 153 families, and assistance to the family of one person, who died in an accident.

So far welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.48,78,750/- has been distributed to 1,605 beneficiaries. The Hon'ble Minister said as per the petitions received from 286 members during the year 2016, Rs.7,11,750/- will be distributed as welfare assistance and for the year 2017, the Board received petitions from 163 members for various kinds of assistance to the tune of Rs. 6,49,500/-, which will be distributed soon to the members / their families.

Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations and Member Secretary Thiru. P.Shankar I.A.S., Non-official members, film directors Thiru. R.V.Udhaya Kumar and Thiru. P.Vasu, dialogue writer, Thiru. Liaquat Ali Khan, film producer, Thiru. Mohan Gandhiraman, actor and playback singer Tmt.T.K.Kala and Department Officials participated in the meeting.